

Vol. V.—July 1941 to January 1942

AN ATLAS - HISTORY OF
THE SECOND GREAT WAR

by
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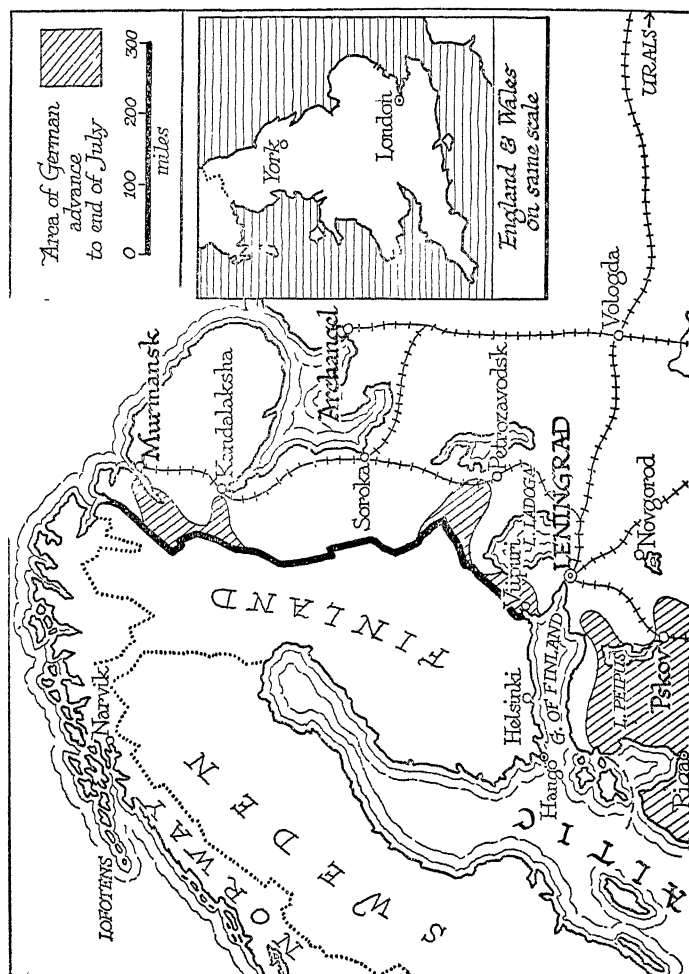
AUTHOR'S NOTE

THE overshadowing importance of events in Russia and, later, in the Far East has made it necessary to devote most of the space in this volume to those two theatres of war. Accordingly there is no chronicle here of the long-drawn-out struggle in the Atlantic, nor of the ceaseless war carried on by the R.A.F. against enemy bases and industrial centres in Germany and north-west Europe. Readers are referred to the maps illustrating these phases of the war which have already appeared in previous volumes.

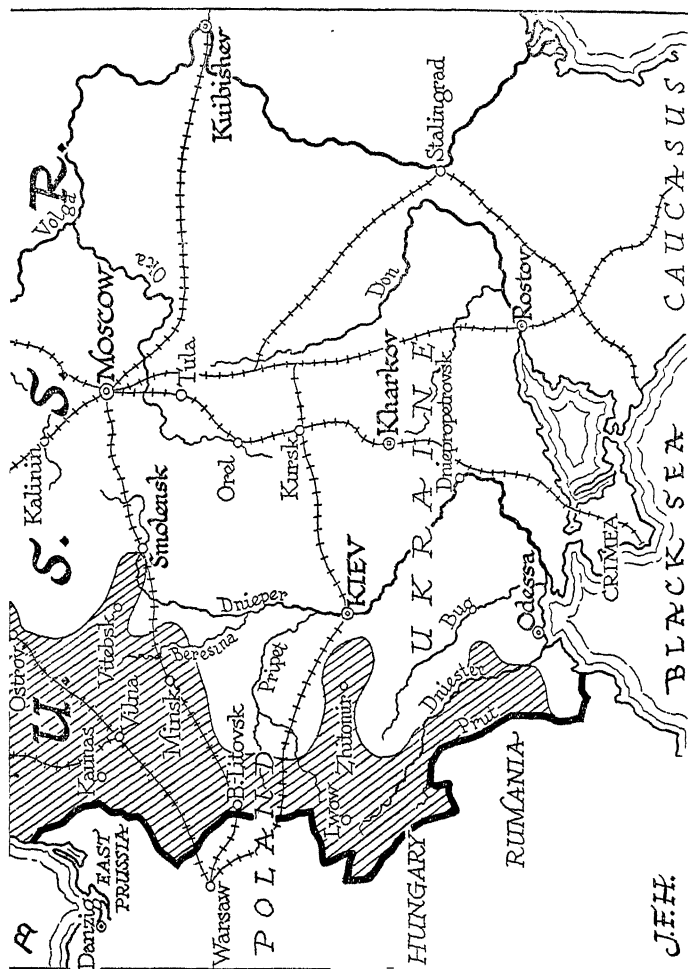
J. F. H.

February, 1942.





The First Five Weeks—



(See next page.)

Russia : The First Five Weeks—

WHEN, without warning, on 22nd June 1941, Hitler launched his assault on the Soviet Union, he began what was, both in the extent of the fighting areas and in the number of armies engaged, the greatest land battle in history. ("Always when looking at the map of Russia," Mr. Eden advised us in his broadcast speech on 4th January, "have a map of Britain on the same scale beside you.")

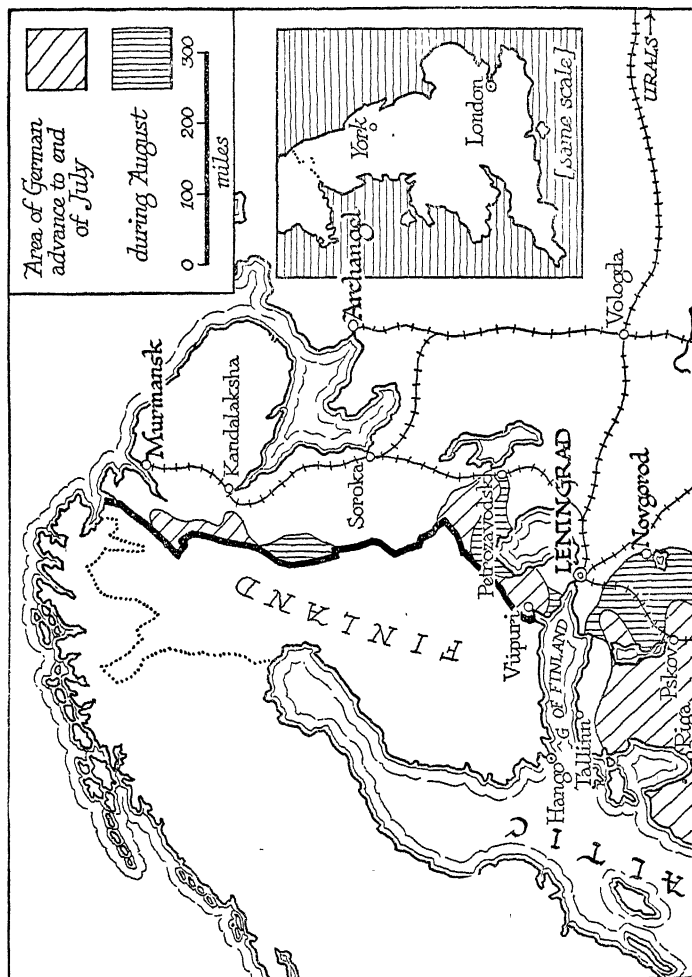
Finland, after first declaring itself neutral, at once permitted the passage of German troops across its territory ; and within a few days threw in its lot with the invaders. Hungarian, Slovak, and Rumanian armies took part in the offensive in the south.

During the first five weeks of the campaign, to the end of July, the Germans made their greatest advances in the northern and north-central zones. One great offensive struck north-east from East Prussia, through Kaunas and Riga to Pskov and Lake Peipus, and, extending north-east of the lake, to within 50 miles of Leningrad. Another attack, from the region of Brest-Litovsk, drove along the line of the Smolensk-Moscow railway towards Minsk ; and, by a wide sweeping movement north of the line, through Vilna and Vitebsk, to the outskirts of Smolensk. In the farther north, along the Finnish frontier, German and Finnish troops attacked in the direction of the Murmansk railway at various points ;

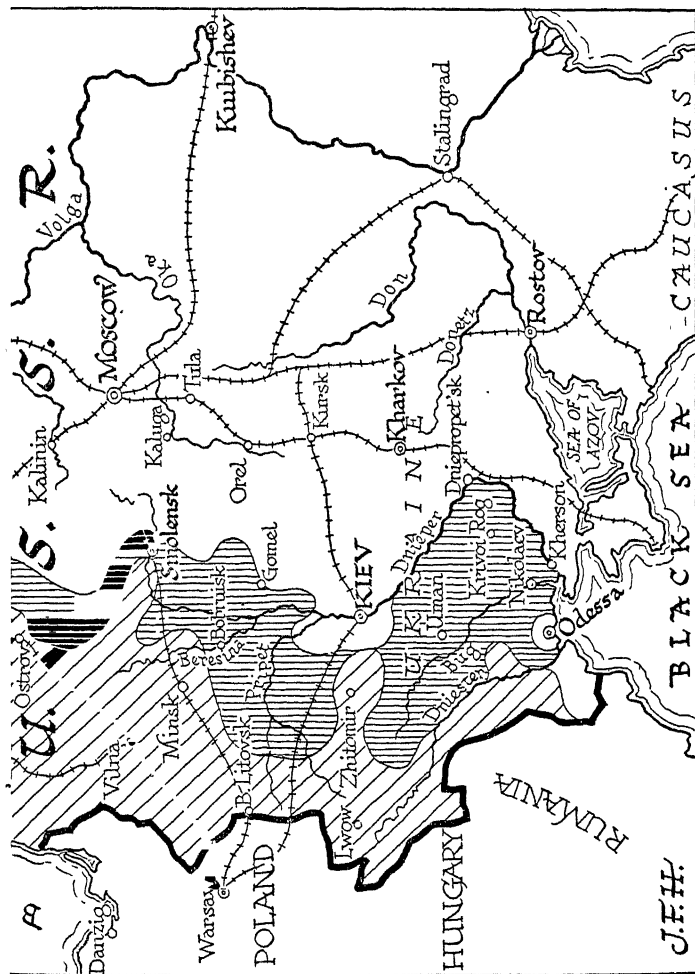
and, between Viipuri and Lake Ladoga, thrust directly at Leningrad.

South of the Pripet area very heavy fighting at first held up the Germans at Lwow and along the Prut and Dniester rivers ; but a wedge was at last driven into the Russian defence by the capture of Zhitomir. In the latter part of July this attack was pushed nearer to Kiev.

By the end of the month the Germans were in possession of practically all the buffer-territory—the Baltic States, eastern Poland, and Bessarabia—occupied by Russia during 1939-40. The Stalin defence zone (*cf.* Map 201, Vol. IV.) had been pierced in the Pskov-Ostrov region, as well as by the thrusts towards Vitebsk and Smolensk, and from Zhitomir towards Kiev. The farthest German advances represented a penetration of some 350 miles from the frontier. But neither Leningrad, Moscow, nor Kiev had been reached, and the Red armies were still intact.



The August Offensive—



(See next page.)

Russia : The August Offensive—

AFTER a relative lull during the later days of July a second great German offensive along the whole front from the Gulf of Finland to the Black Sea developed during the first days of August.

From the Finnish frontier, Germans and Finns pushed round the northern shore of Lake Ladoga, and cut the Murmansk railway at Petrozavodsk; as well as continuing their advance from Viipuri towards Leningrad.

South-west of Leningrad the invading forces pushed onward from the Pskov-Ostrov line towards Novgorod and the Leningrad-Moscow railway; thus broadening the thrust north-east of Lake Peipus into a wide front extending from the coast of the Gulf of Finland to Novgorod. The attack was now begun on the outer defence lines of Leningrad itself.

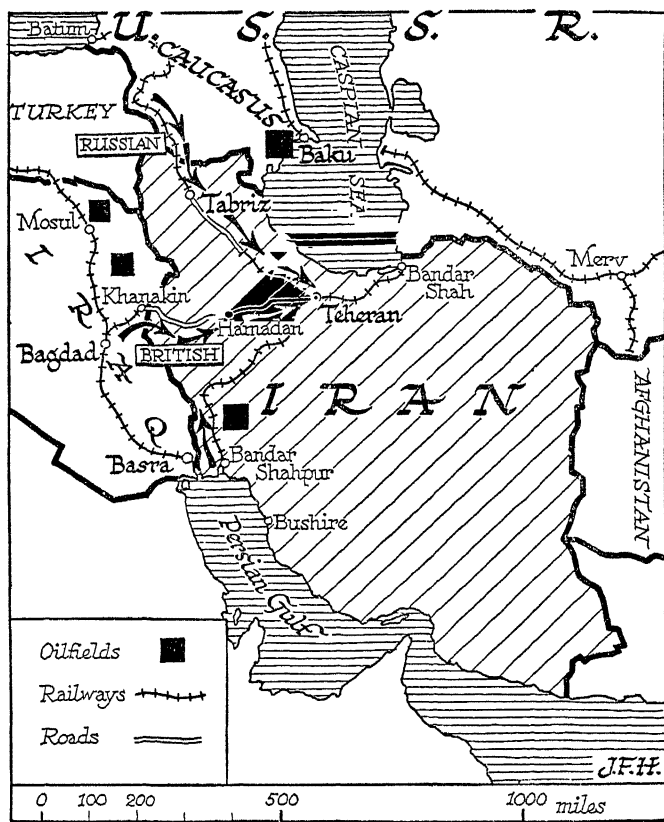
In the central sector the battle raged fiercely around Smolensk. Along the direct line towards Moscow the Germans were able to make relatively little progress. But in the area south of the Minsk-Smolensk railway they forced the crossings of the Beresina and the upper Dnieper, and reached Gomel. Then they struck southward, on both sides of the Dnieper, threatening to envelop Kiev from the north.

In front of Kiev the Russians held firm, resisting all German efforts to push the "Zhitomir wedge" nearer to the city. But farther south the Germans made their

most sweeping advance of all. Striking south-east from the Zhitomir region towards Uman they compelled a rapid Russian withdrawal from the Dniester and Bug rivers, and continued their offensive across the Ukraine until they reached the whole line of the Dnieper, from just south of Kiev to the river's mouth at Kherson, on the Black Sea. By this advance important Russian industrial areas were overrun ; and Odessa was left isolated except for communication by sea. On 28th August the Russians announced their evacuation of Dniepropetrovsk, at the extreme eastern "elbow" of the Dnieper, and the destruction of the great Dnieper Dam, important source of power for a wide region. The blowing-up of the Dam, indeed, symbolized the spirit in which the Russians were fighting the invader everywhere ; a ruthless "scorched earth" policy was carried through, and the Germans occupied a barren and devastated country.

But the loss of so much of the Ukraine was a serious blow to Russia's economic strength ; and a further enemy advance east of the Dnieper would mean the destruction of yet more important industrial areas.

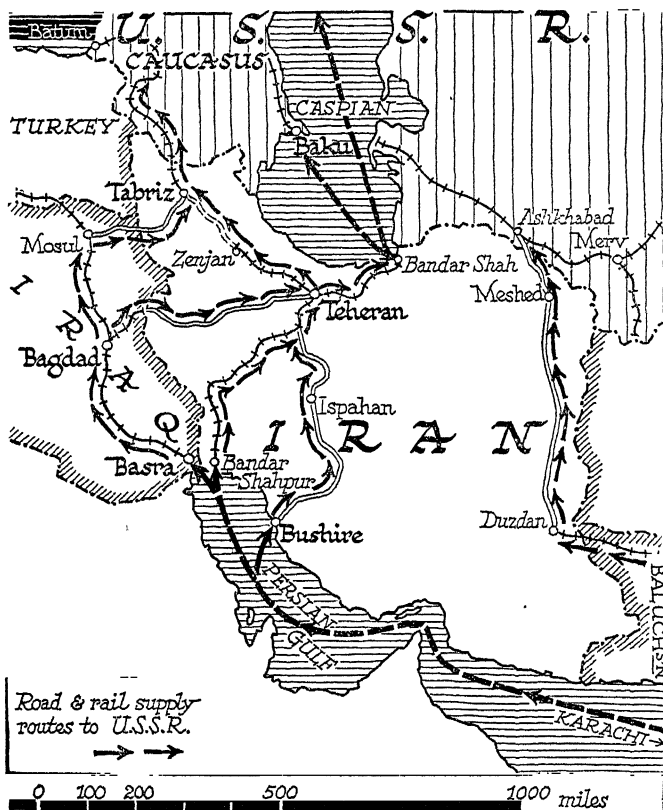
In these first months of the great battle the opposing commanders were : on the Russian side, Marshals Voroshilov (north), Timoshenko (centre), and Budyonny (south) ; on the German, von Leeb (north), von Bock (centre), and von Rundstedt (south).



The Occupation of Iran (I)—

THE known presence of considerable numbers of Nazi agents in Iran, and the unsatisfactory replies of the Shah's government to Russo-British representations on the subject, led to the entry of Russian and British troops into the country on 25th August. The Russians advanced from the north, occupying Tabriz, terminus of a railway line from the Caucasus ; and along the southern shore of the Caspian. British and Indian troops landed at the head of the Persian Gulf, at Basra and Bandar Shahpur, and pushed north to the Persian oilfields ; and also moved eastward from Khanakin, on the Iraq frontier, towards Hamadan and Teheran.

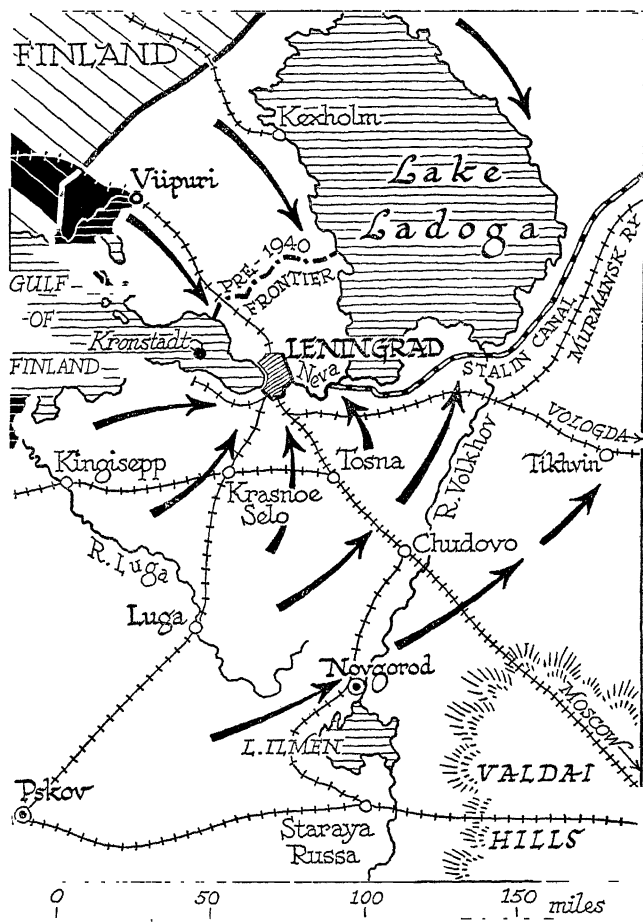
Actual hostilities were brief, fighting ceasing on 29th August. On 16th September the Shah abdicated, and Teheran was occupied by Russian and British forces.



The Occupation of Iran (2)—

THE occupation of Iran opened up vital lines of supply to southern Russia. From the Persian Gulf, at Basra, the Bagdad railway links up with the roads from Bagdad to Teheran, and from Mosul to Tabriz. The Trans-Iranian railway, built by the late Shah, runs from Bandar Shahpur on the Gulf, through Teheran to Bandar Shah on the Caspian. A road route leads from the port of Bushire through Ispahan to Teheran ; and in the extreme east of the country another road route runs from Duzdan, terminus of the Baluchistan railway, to the Russian Trans-Caspian line at Ashkhabad.

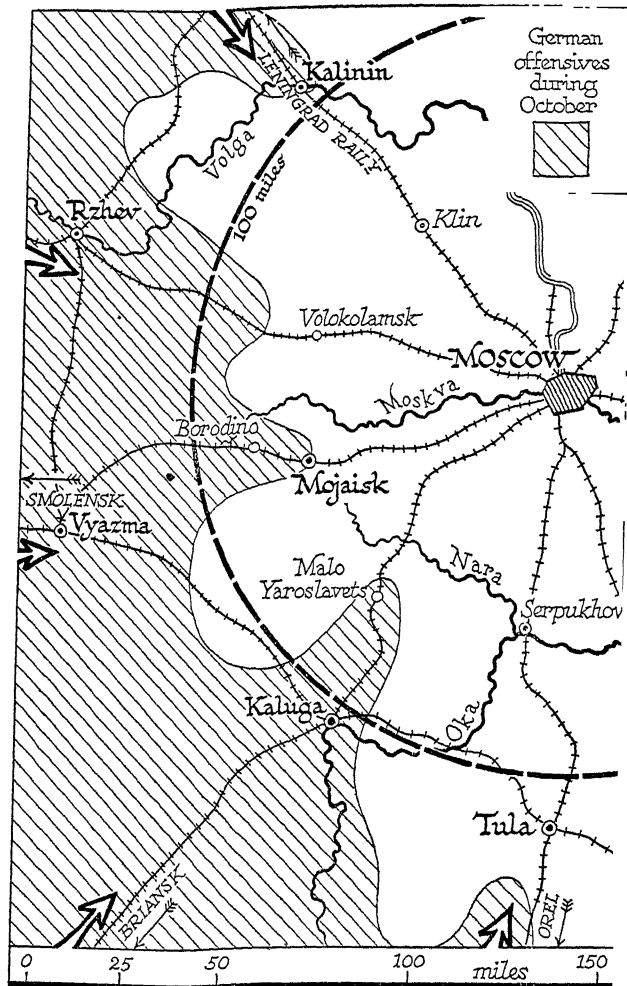
Since the occupation of the country intensive work on the improvement and development of roads, railways, and ports has been carried on ; and it was reported in December that the construction of the railway between Zenjan and Tabriz was almost complete, thus affording direct rail communication, through Teheran, between the Persian Gulf and the Caucasus.



The Struggle for Leningrad—

VON LEEB's rapid advance in the northern sector brought his armies, in the earlier stages of the campaign, relatively close to Leningrad. Before the end of August they had advanced along the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland to near Kingisepp, and, farther south, had occupied Novgorod. From this latter region they next struck north-east, along the line of the river Volkhov, cutting the Leningrad-Moscow railway, and striking at the Leningrad-Vologda line. From the north the Finns were pressing down west and east of Lake Ladoga.

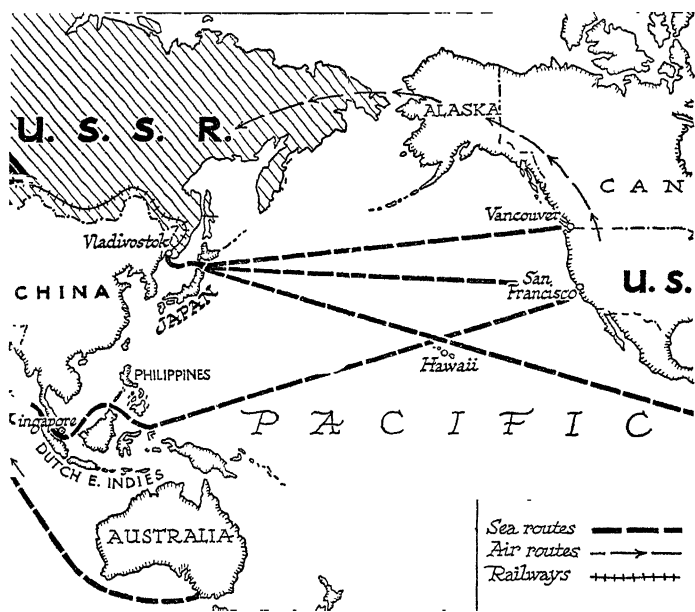
The encirclement of the city, except for some water communication across Lake Ladoga, was thus complete. But all direct German attacks were beaten off, and again and again Russian counter-attacks drove the enemy from the nearer approaches. From the region of the Valdai Hills Russian offensives also relieved the pressure on the city's defenders.



The Drive towards Moscow—

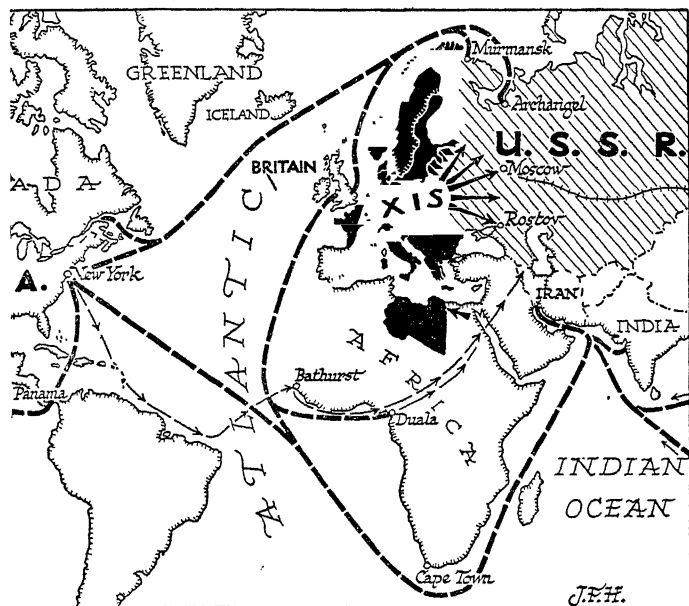
A COUNTER-OFFENSIVE by Timoshenko's forces during September in the area between Smolensk and Vyazma (*cf.* Map 217) held up for a time the direct advance of the German armies on Moscow. But with the October offensive came violent onslaughts on the whole central sector, north-west, west, and south of the capital.

At the northern end Kalinin, on the Leningrad railway, was occupied. From Rzhev the Germans pushed forward towards Volokolamsk. Along the Smolensk railway they advanced through Vyazma and Borodino to Mojaïsk, some 60 miles west-south-west of Moscow. Farther south they struck from Briansk to Kaluga and Malo Yaroslavets, and from Orel towards Tula. But their efforts to cut off large Russian forces in the "bulges" north and south of Mojaïsk failed.

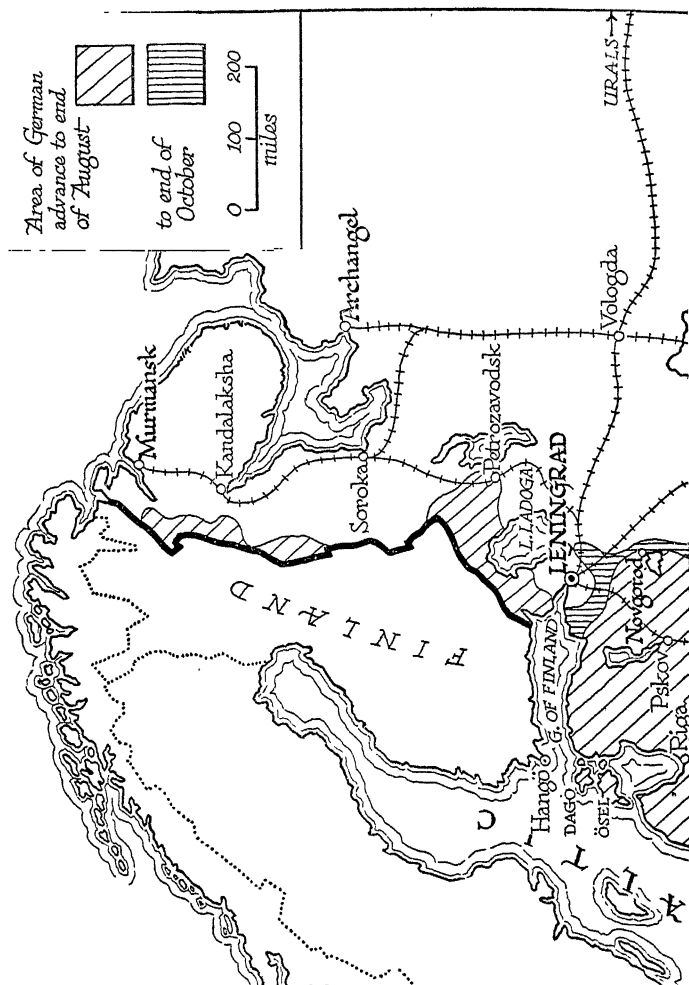


ON 28th September the British and U.S. delegates to a Three-Power Conference, headed by Lord Beaverbrook and Mr. Averell Harriman, arrived in Moscow. They worked for three days at high pressure in conference with M. Stalin and the Soviet leaders. At the conclusion of the meeting it was announced : " An agreement has been

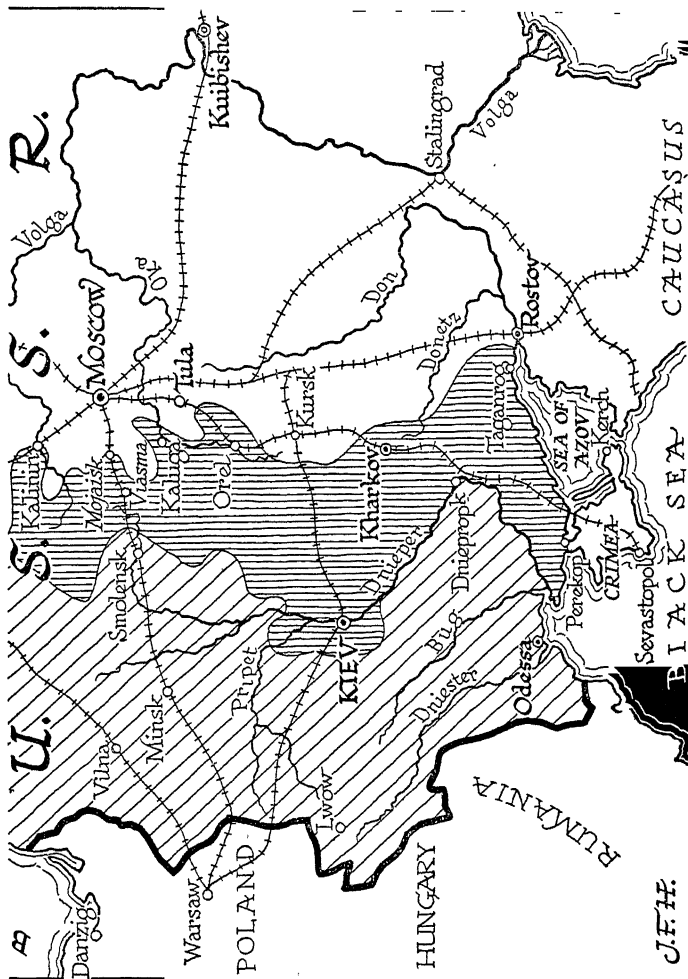
World Routes—



reached to place at the disposal of Russia virtually every requirement for which the Soviet military and civil authorities asked. . . . Transport facilities have been fully examined, and plans made to increase the volume of traffic in all directions." This agreement was the signal for a "Tanks for Russia" drive in British factories.



September and October—



(See next page.)

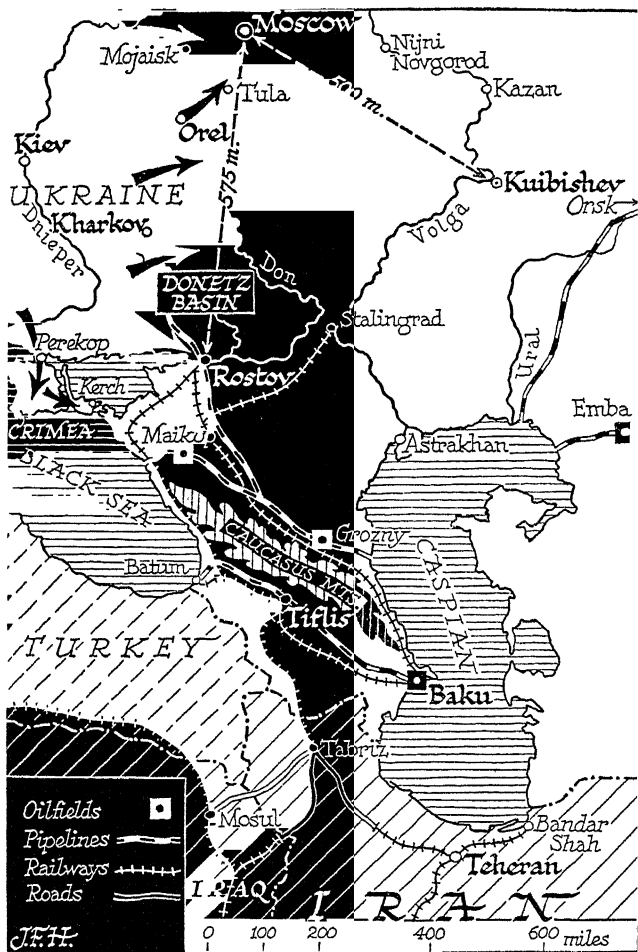
Russia : September and October—

THE month of September saw, in the north, furious German attempts to take Leningrad by frontal assault (*cf.* Map 214) ; in the centre, in the Smolensk region, a series of counter-attacks by Timoshenko ; and in the south, the fall of Kiev (19th September) and desperate but unsuccessful efforts by the Germans to encircle Budyonny's armies retreating east of that city. At the end of the month the German front extended in an almost straight north-to-south line, Novgorod—east of Smolensk—Dnepropetrovsk—Crimea. In Berlin, Hitler announced that the whole Russian campaign had so far “gone according to plan,” and that the Red armies were now broken.

Nevertheless, early in October, a great new offensive was discovered to be necessary. By the end of that month a further German advance averaging 150 miles in depth had been made along the whole of the central and southern sectors. Moscow (*cf.* Map 215) was threatened by the capture of Kalinin, on the Leningrad—Moscow railway, north-west of the capital ; Mojaisk, on the line from Smolensk ; and Kaluga, on the river Oka, to the south-west. In the southern (Ukraine) region the invaders crossed the Dnieper, captured Kharkov, and advanced towards the Donetz, occupying the important industrial and mining towns of the Donetz Basin, west of the river. They occupied the whole

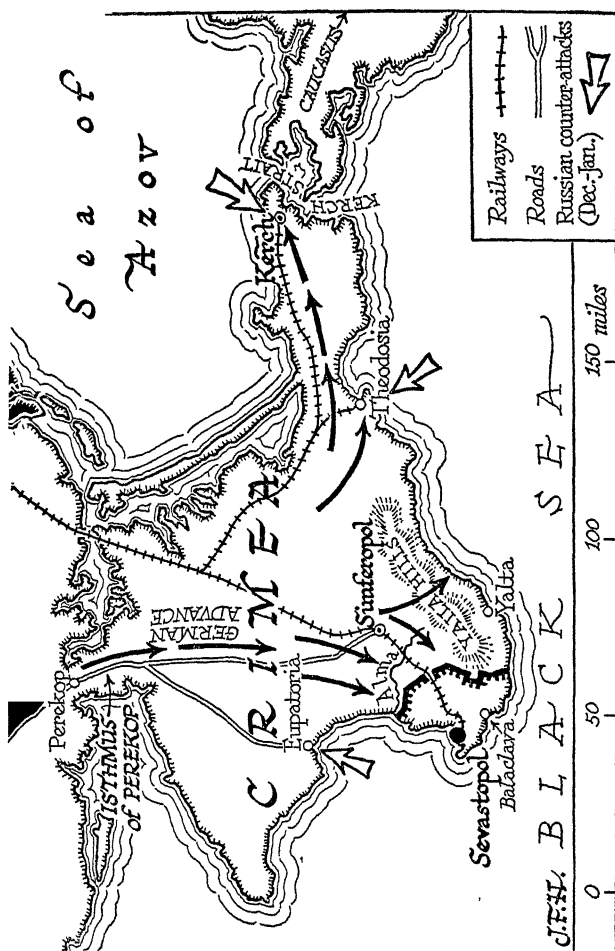
northern coast-line of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, to beyond Taganrog, only a short distance west of Rostov. Odessa had to be surrendered, and the Crimea was isolated—the Germans attacking fiercely at the Perekop isthmus. Meantime, behind the German front everywhere—north, centre, and south—Red guerilla bands were striking at communications and supply lines.

On 20th October a state of siege was proclaimed in Moscow, and the administrative departments of the Government, with the foreign legations, were moved to Kuibishev, on the Volga, 500 miles away. On 24th October it was announced that the Russian front was thenceforth to be divided into two commands: the northern, including Moscow, under General Zhukov, and the southern, under Timoshenko. Voroshilov and Budyonny were placed in charge of new armies in course of formation in the rear.



The Threat to the Caucasus—

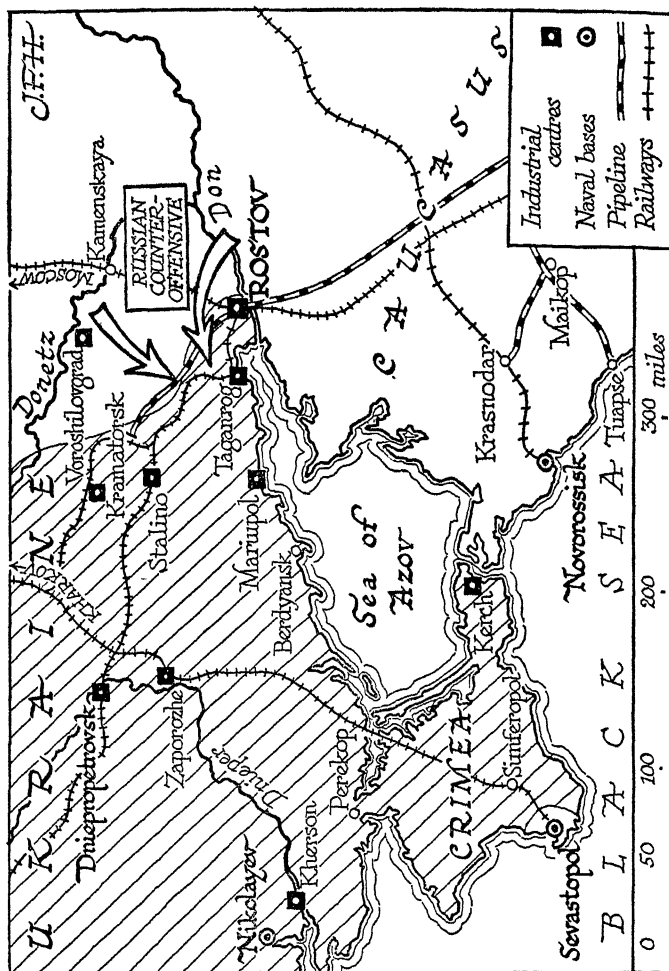
THE German advance across the Ukraine to the Donetz Basin, and along the north shore of the Sea of Azov towards Rostov, threatened the communications between the interior of Russia and the vital oilfields of the Caucasus as well as the supply lines from Iran. Oil pipelines and railways from both sides of the Caucasus converge on Rostov ; and these were further endangered by the German penetration of the Crimea (*cf.* next map) and their advance to Kerch, at the extreme eastern end of the peninsula. It remained only for them to cross the narrow strait separating Kerch from the Caucasian mainland, and they would take in rear any Russian defence line based on the lower Don.



The Attack on the Crimea—

THE German assault on the Crimea began in the later days of September. For a month the Russians held their defence lines across the narrow isthmus of Perekop against repeated assaults. On 29th October the Germans claimed to have broken through, and three days later announced their capture of Simferopol, capital town of the Crimean Republic. One part of the Russian forces retired behind the fortified lines of Sevastopol, while others retreated eastward. On 4th November the Germans entered Theodosia, and on the 17th, after desperate fighting, they took Kerch, thus gaining control of the entrance to the Sea of Azov.

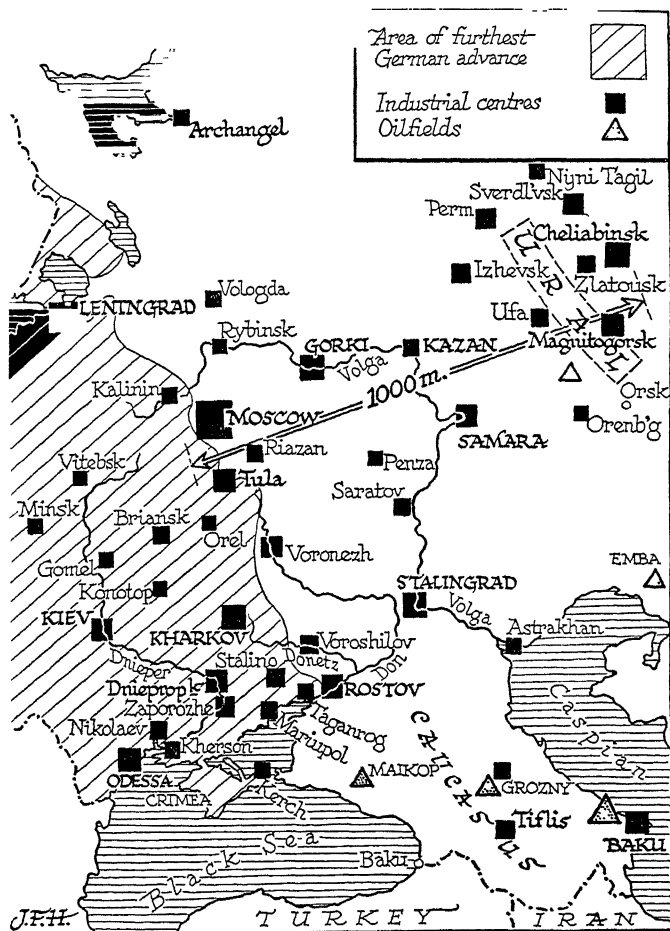
But the expected assault across the strait did not materialize. Nearly two months later, on 30th December, Russian sea-borne troops landed in the Crimea and retook Kerch and Theodosia ; a few days later landing also on the west coast of the peninsula at Eupatoria. Meanwhile the defenders of Sevastopol held out against every assault.



Counter-attack at Rostov—

IN the last week of November—two or three days after the opening of the British offensive in Libya—Timoshenko's armies struck back at the German forces in the Rostov region. A frontal assault across the Don regained the city, and in combination with a flanking attack from the Donetsk, drove the Germans back 50 miles, to west of Taganrog. The immediate threat to the Caucasus was thus removed and a beginning made on the task of clearing the enemy from the Donetsk industrial area.

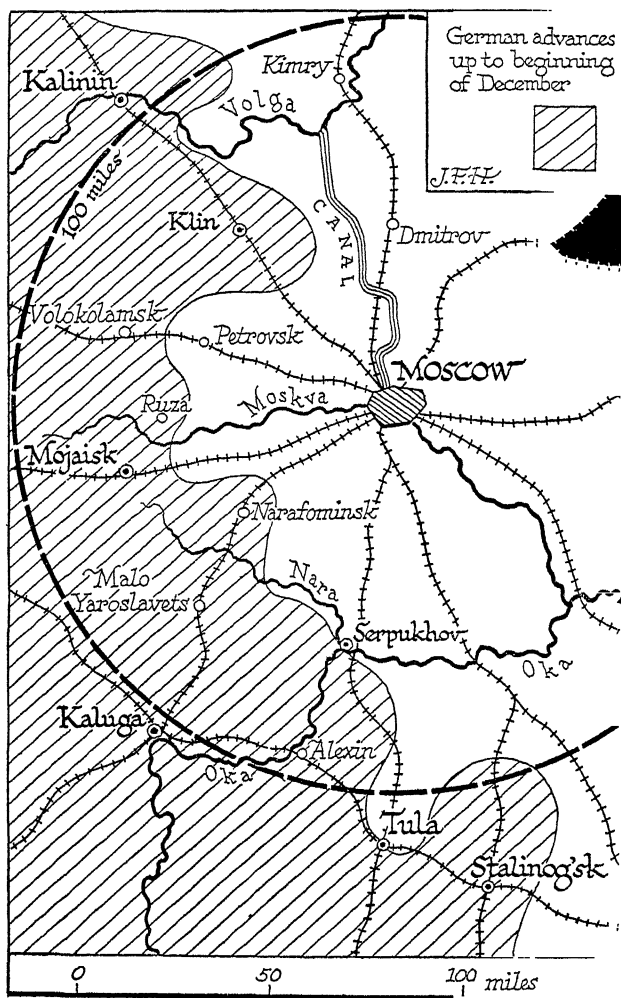
It was the first major defeat on land which Germany had suffered since the beginning of the war in 1939.



Russia's Industrial Areas—

DURING the five months June–November, the German invasion had succeeded not only in overrunning great areas of European Russia, but, more important, had put some of the Soviet Union's most important industrial areas out of action. Leningrad was closely besieged, the Moscow–Tula region was the scene of violent battles, while the vital industrial and mining areas of the Ukraine and the Donetz were largely in enemy hands. Of these older industrial regions the Caucasus alone remained intact.

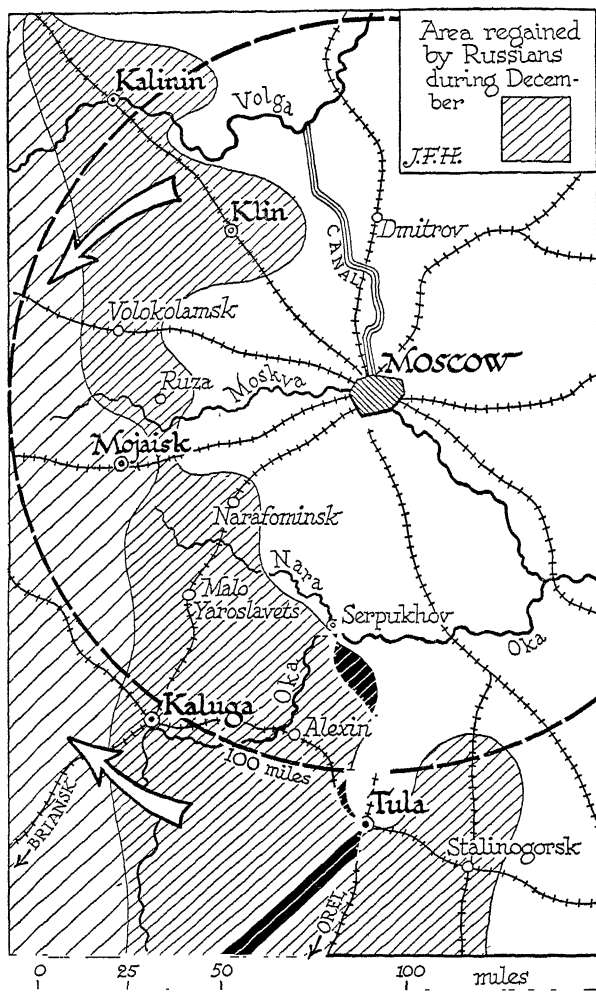
All this made the new Ural region—with the great new centres planned and constructed, under the Five-Year-Plans, at Sverdlovsk, Cheliabinsk, Ufa, and Magnitogorsk—of supreme importance. This region had been developed precisely because of the nearness of the older regions to the Soviet's western frontier, and their consequent danger from invasion.



The Battle of Moscow (1)—

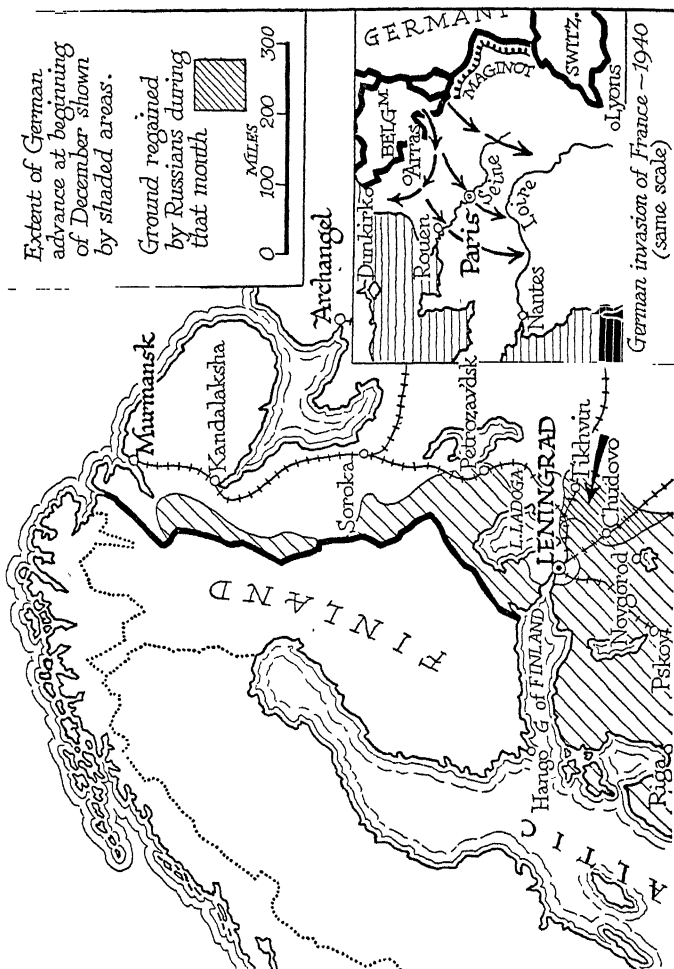
SPURRED on by the coming of winter the Germans throughout November concentrated enormous forces on the Moscow front—from Kalinin, 100 miles north-west of the capital, to Tula, just over that distance south of it—in a resolute effort to capture the city. A Russian report stated that they were using forty divisions, as against the seventeen used during the October offensive against Moscow. Waves of tanks led the assault at every point. South of Kalinin they pushed east to Klin, and approached the Moscow-Volga canal. In the Mojaisk-Malo Yaroslavets sector they forced a way across the Nara and through Narafominsk, at this point being only 36 miles from the outskirts of Moscow. In the south, though held at Tula, they advanced to the east of that town, taking Stalinogorsk, and pushing north towards the river Oka.

But they did not reach Moscow.

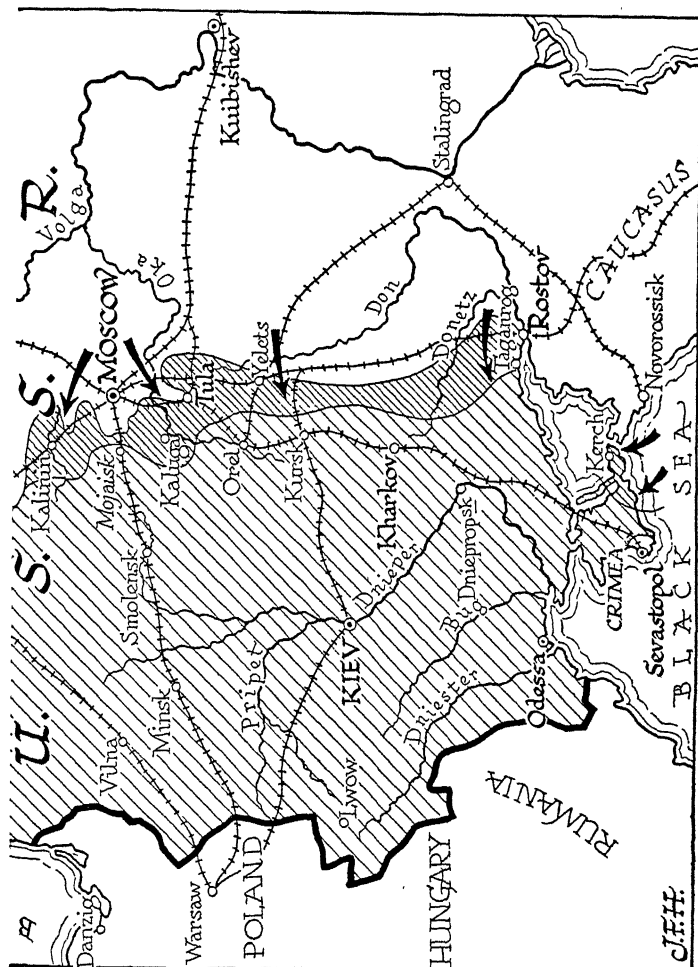


The Battle of Moscow (2)—

EARLY in December the German assaults on the Soviet capital weakened. Undeterred by the severe wintry conditions the Russians counter-attacked ; and the counter-attacks everywhere rapidly developed into counter-offensives. Kalinin and Klin in the north were retaken. Volokolamsk and Ruza, west of the capital, were re-entered. From Malo Yaroslavets to the Tula region the Germans were soon in rapid retreat. Only in the centre, near Mojaïsk, did they stand firm. By the end of December they had been pushed back beyond the 100-mile zone everywhere except for the territory immediately around Mojaïsk.



December Counter-offensive—



(See next page.)

Russia : December Counter-offensive—

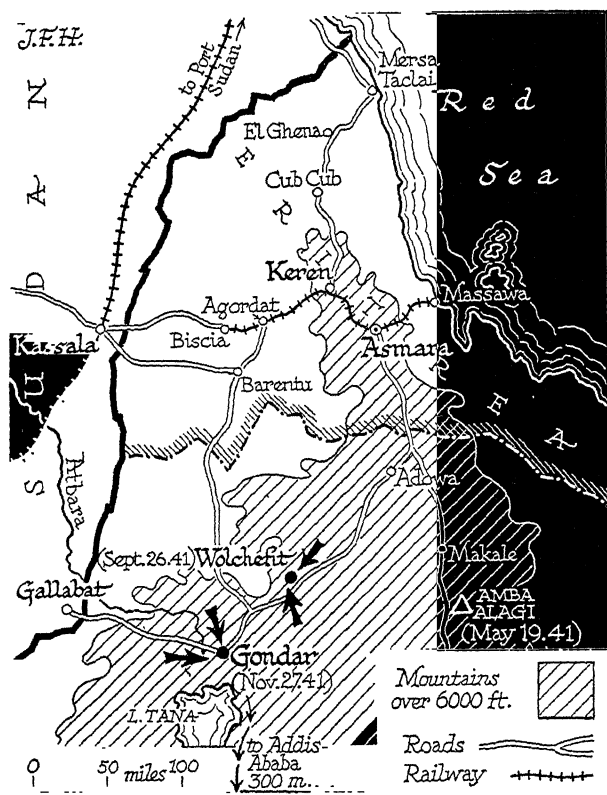
Not only in the Moscow region, but along the whole front from Leningrad to the Black Sea, the German armies began a withdrawal early in December ; and at various points the Russians promptly launched strong counter-offensives. If the enemy's retirement was a planned move to a shorter, or better sheltered, winter line, it quickly became apparent that he would be compelled to go back considerably farther than he had intended.

The Germans, in fact, were now feeling the full force of the Russian winter. The Berlin press began to emphasize the terrible hardships of the troops at the front, reporting that supply columns could not get through, and that the men had "reached a state of mental and physical collapse." Dr. Goebbels issued an appeal to the civilians of Germany and the occupied countries to surrender warm clothing for the use of the troops. Moreover, the Russian airmen had long experimented in flying under Arctic conditions, and this now gave a decided air superiority to the Red armies.

East of Leningrad the Red armies recaptured Tikhvin, taken by the Germans in November, and advanced through Chudovo towards Novgorod (*cf.* Map 214). This advance, together with the recapture of Kalinin, north-west of Moscow, cleared the Leningrad-Moscow railway, and reopened direct communication between

the two cities. The battles around Moscow have already been dealt with (*cf.* preceding maps). South of Tula the Russians took Yelets, clearing the Moscow-Rostov railway, and then drove on towards Kursk and Kharkov. In the south they attacked from the line of the Donetsk, and striking southward at the enemy forces ranged along the coast of the Sea of Azov. The landings in the Crimea opened up the possibility of a Russian attack in the rear of all the German southern armies in eastern Ukraine.

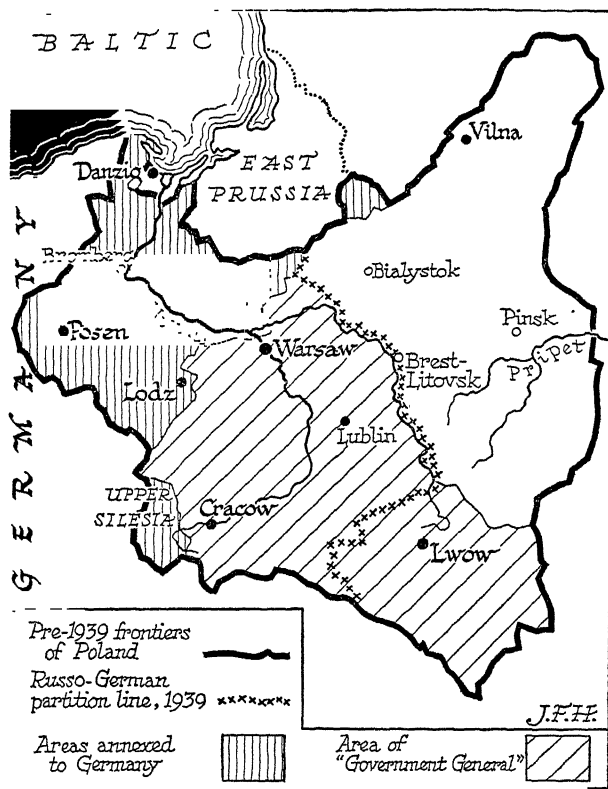
On 19th December Hitler dismissed the German commander-in-chief, Field-Marshal von Brauchitsch, and took over personal command of all the German armies, which, he announced, would henceforth be guided by his intuition. Well-authenticated reports followed, stating that several other German generals had been retired.



The Freeing of Abyssinia—

AFTER the Duke of Aosta's surrender at Amba Alagi (May, 1941) the remaining Italian forces in Abyssinia had retired to positions in the mountainous north-west of the country, north of Lake Tana. For some time bad weather delayed operations, but on 26th September the garrison of Wolcheft, which had been completely surrounded and cut off from food and supplies, surrendered to British and Patriot forces. Early in November the encirclement of the remaining stronghold of Gondar was completed, and on 27th November some 10,000 men under General Nasi were compelled to yield unconditionally. The whole of Abyssinia was now cleared of enemy forces.

An official communique said: "The principal credit for the final battle must be given to East African (Native) and Patriot troops. The assault on the final position was carried out almost exclusively by East Africans. . . . It is fitting that African soldiers, who played so prominent a part in the whole campaign, should have the honour of finally overthrowing Mussolini's East African Empire."



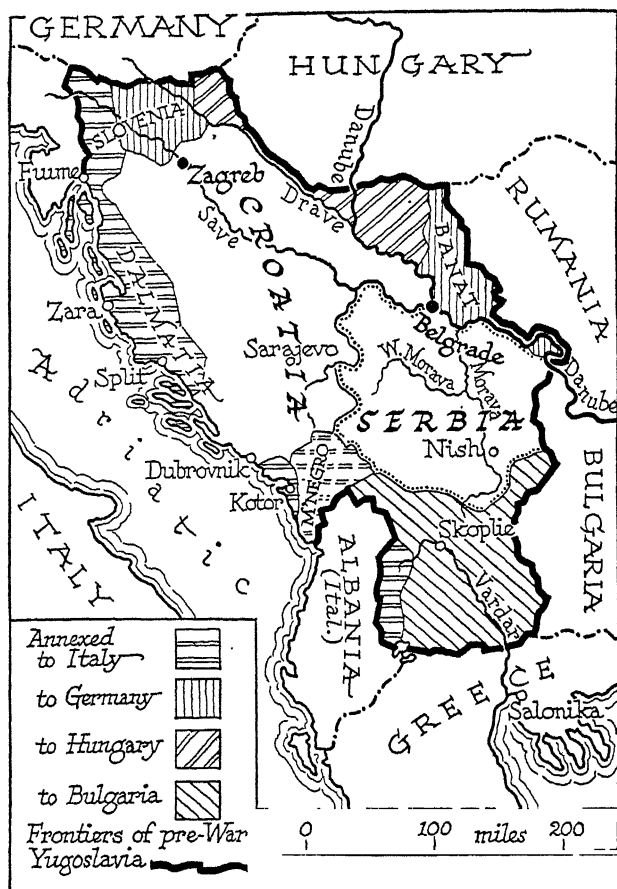
Poland under the Nazi Yoke—

“INDEPENDENT Poland no longer exists ; and, in accordance with the will of the German Might an independent Poland shall never rise again.” So runs the Nazi *diktat*. And Hitler’s régime in Poland has from the first been a cold-blooded reign of terror. No attempt was made—even if it would have been possible—to set up any sort of Quisling government. The country was placed at once under a purely Nazi administration.

The north-western part of the country—the “ Corridor ” and the districts of Posen and Lodz—were incorporated into the Reich ; as was Upper Silesia. These areas are in process of compulsory Germanization.

The central and southern areas form a “ Government General,” with Cracow (not Warsaw) as the capital, administered by a German bureaucracy, and reserved for Poles, Jews, and Ukrainians. For a time the Lublin area was made a Jewish Reservation.

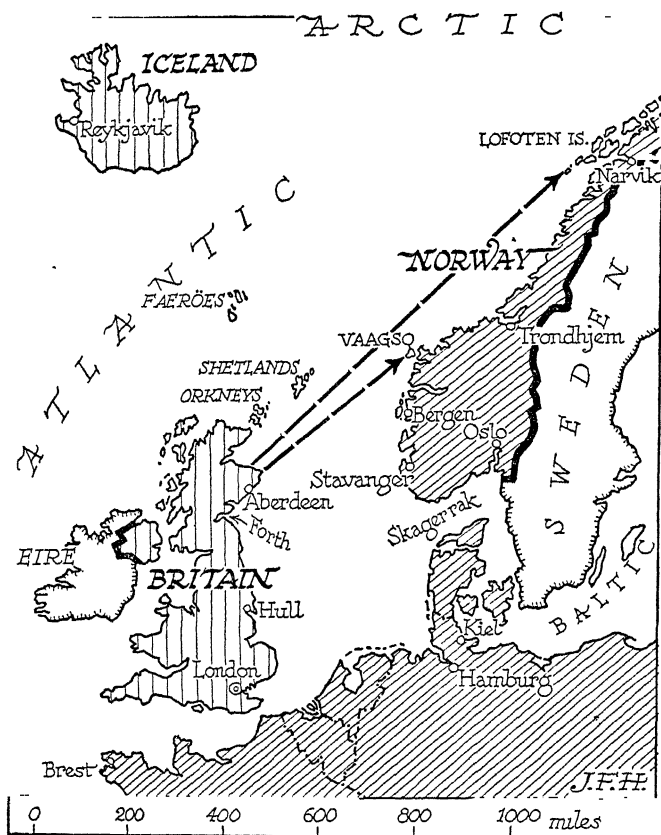
The eastern areas, occupied by the Russians in 1939, now form part of the “ occupied areas ” behind the German eastern front.



The Partition of Yugoslavia—

THE New Order in south-eastern Europe has ordained the break up of the State of Yugoslavia. Hungary and Bulgaria, as well as Italy, assisted in the German invasion of that country, and all have been rewarded by a share of the spoils. Italy has been given practically the whole Dalmatian coastline, part of Slovenia, a protectorate over Montenegro, and a strip of southern Serbia adjoining Albania. Two areas in the north have gone to Hungary. Bulgaria has taken all Serbian Macedonia. Germany annexed Slovenia and occupies the Banat. Under Ante Pavelitch, a notorious terrorist, an "independent" State of Croatia has been set up, with an Italian king who has not yet dared to visit his realm. Serbia proper has been reduced to less than the area that was hers before the first Balkan war in 1912.

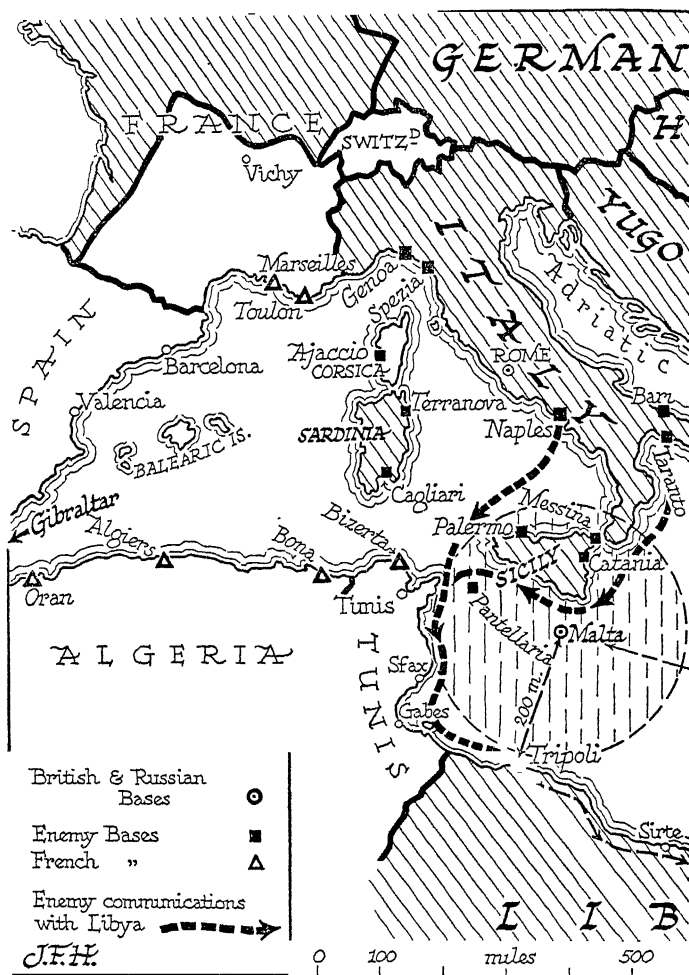
Nevertheless the Serbs have refused to bow to the conquerors, and under General Mihailovitch have carried on persistent guerilla warfare, at times on a considerable scale, in the mountain regions of the western Morava and in Montenegro. Aided by Pavelitch the Nazis have replied by a brutal campaign of extermination.



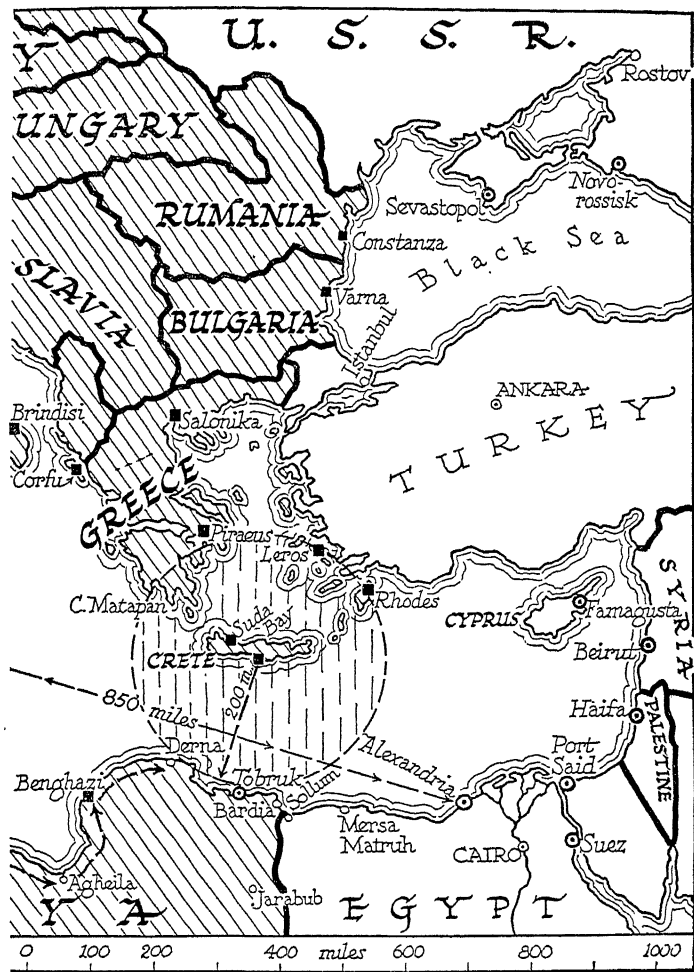
Raids on Norway—

IN the last days of the year two highly successful British raids—in which navy, army (including Norwegian troops), and air force combined—were carried out at points on the Norwegian coast-line: one on the Lofoten Islands, and the other on the island of Vaagso, some 150 miles north of Bergen. In the former, which lasted for several days, enemy sea communications were completely disorganized; and the British ships actually used one of the harbours as a fuelling base.

In the Vaagso raid, enemy shipping totalling nearly 16,000 tons was destroyed. The German garrisons of Vaagso and Maaloy, an adjacent island, put up a determined resistance, but were all killed or taken prisoner; and a wireless station and industrial plant were destroyed.



in the Mediterranean—



(See next page.)

The War in the Mediterranean—

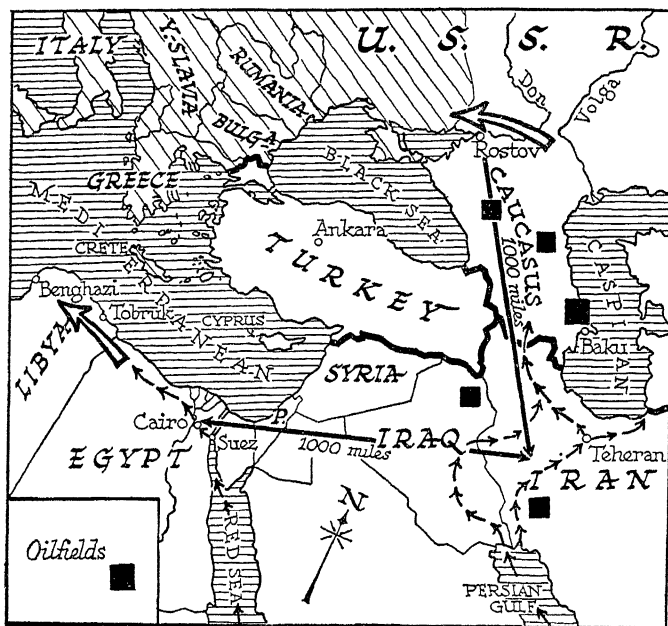
THE German-Italian conquest of Yugoslavia and Greece, earlier in the year, gave control of all the coasts of the central Mediterranean, from the Gulf of Genoa to the Ægean Sea, to the Axis. Possession of Sardinia and Sicily gave them an advantageous position in the western basin and partial command of the central channel (between Sicily and Tunis) ; while in the eastern half of the sea they now held invaluable strategic bases in the islands of Crete and Rhodes. On the southern side the whole of the Libyan coast-line was theirs ; and the coasts and harbours of French Tunis, whether or not the Vichy Government was actually acquiescing in their use by Italian shipping, was certainly in effective Axis control. The supply lines to Libya from Naples, Taranto, or Sicily, were under the shelter of that coast-line for the greater part of the journey to Tripoli.

Until November, when British land forces again took the offensive on the Egyptian frontier (see following maps) the war in the Mediterranean was confined to naval and air actions. The navy continued its harassing and hindering of the enemy line of communication with Libyā, and took heavy toll both of transport vessels and escorting warships. On 9th November, ten days before the Libyan offensive began, two enemy convoys were annihilated south of Taranto, nine out of ten supply ships and three escorting destroyers being sunk, and two destroyers damaged.

The R.A.F.'s raids on enemy bases were also intensified. Naples was heavily bombed on five nights in late October, and on ten separate occasions during November. Other objectives were Taranto, Palermo, and Piræus, as well as the Libyan ports of Tripoli and Benghazi.

Malta, which had withstood more than 1,000 raids, was itself the base of many British air offensives. It was officially stated that bombers operating from the island had dropped over a million bombs on enemy targets during November.

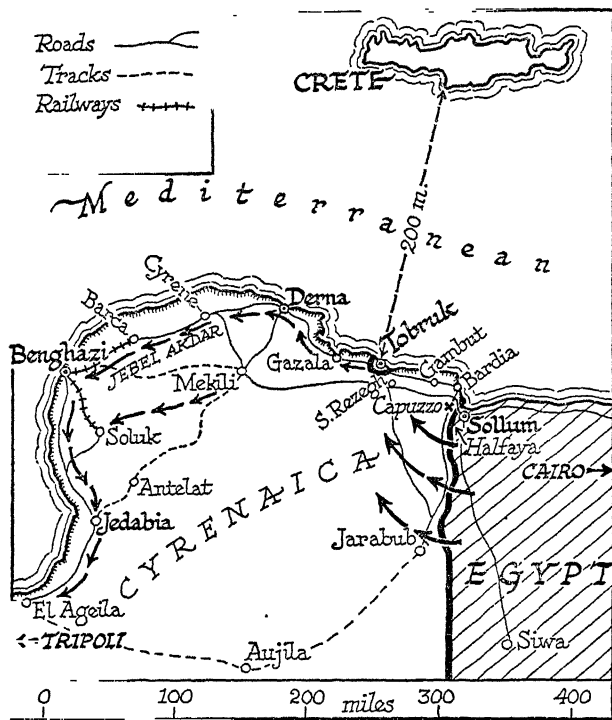
The two zones of greatest activity in the Mediterranean were, as the map shows, that centering on Malta and Sicily in the centre of the sea, and the 200-mile wide channel between Crete and the Eastern Libyan coast from Derna to Tobruk.



The Middle East—

IT was announced from Cairo on 2nd October that a reorganization of British and Imperial forces in the Middle East had been carried out. Henceforth two separate Army Commands were to operate under the Commander-in-chief, General Auchinleck: one, the Ninth Army, consisting of the forces in Syria and Palestine; the other, the Eighth, the army in the Western Desert (Egypt).

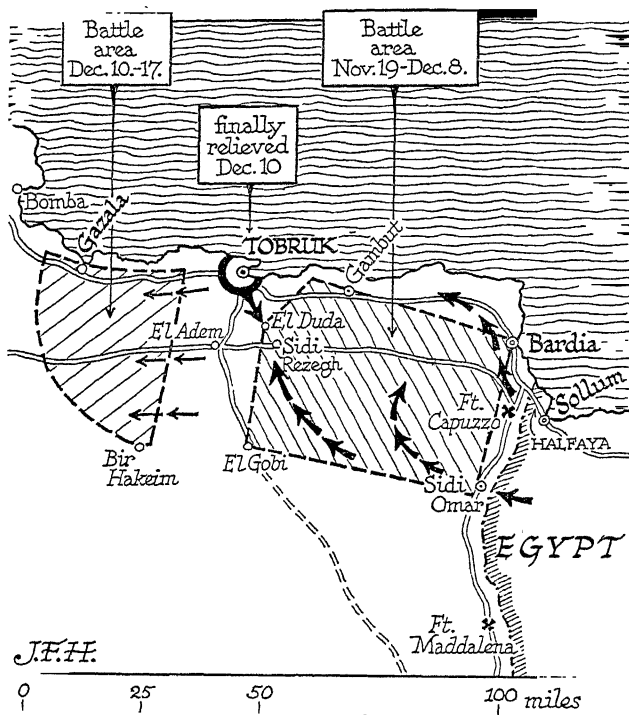
These Middle Eastern positions constituted the southern defence line against Hitler's drive for the oil of the Caucasus, Iraq, and Iran. Before the end of the year the Allies had taken the offensive on both wings—the British in the south-west, in Libya, and the Russians at Rostov, in the north.



The Offensive in Libya (1)—

THE German-Italian counter-stroke in March-April, 1941, under the German general, Rommel, had carried the Axis forces again to the Egyptian frontier. Except for Tobruk, the garrison of which place held out against almost continuous attacks for months, Libya was once more in the possession of the enemy.

On 18th November the Eighth Army took the offensive on the line Sollum-Jarabub, penetrating rapidly some 50 miles into Libyan territory. The aim apparently was then to turn northward towards the coast, join forces with the Tobruk garrison, and contain the main enemy forces within the coastal area between Tobruk and Bardia. But Rommel's Afrika Korps fought back fiercely, and a three-week battle ensued in which the initiative passed again and again from one side to the other.

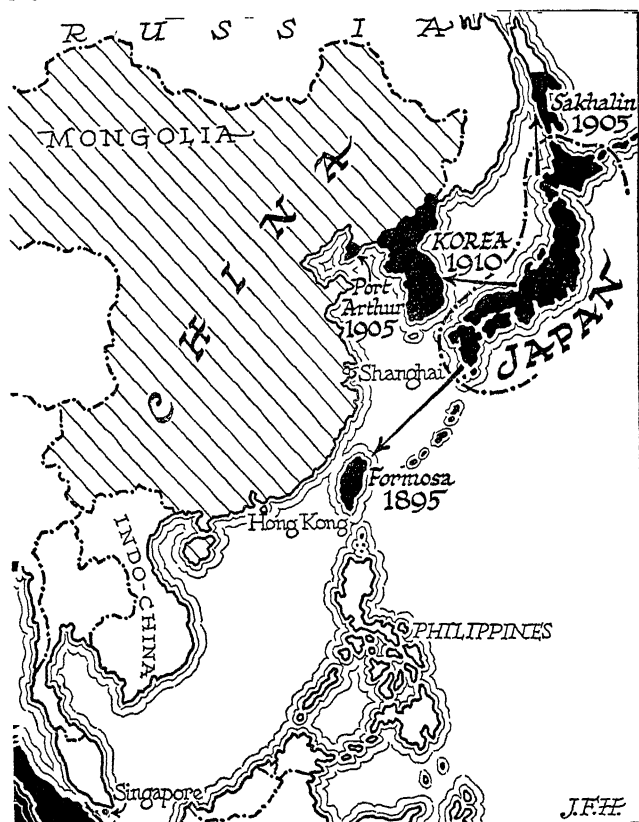


The Offensive in Libya (2)—

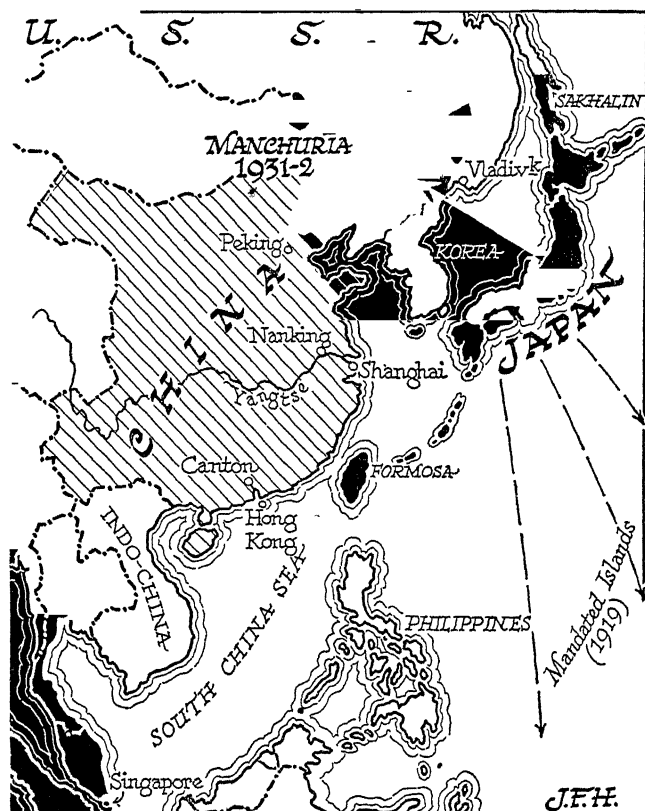
THE first onrush of the British attack carried our forces up to the region of Sidi Rezegh, a few miles south-east of Tobruk. Here, and in the area east of it, the battle raged for days. On 27th November the Tobruk garrison attacked and captured El Duda, and joined hands with the invading British force. Two days later the Germans pierced this line of contact, and it was not until 10th December that communication with Tobruk was finally re-established, Rommel's forces by that time having retreated farther west.

Further heavy fighting ensued in the Gazala-Bir Hakeim area before Rommel began a rapid retreat, only stayed 300 miles away at Jedabia (see previous map) in the last days of the year. Here his men again made a determined stand, but once more retired after some days towards El Ageila.

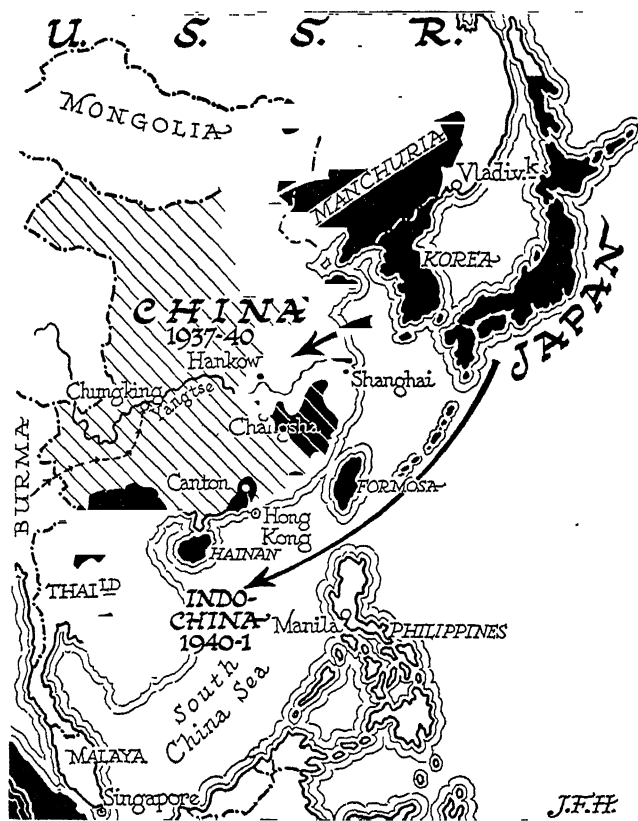
Meantime enemy garrisons left behind in fortified posts on the Egyptian frontier were being steadily attacked. Bardia was captured on 2nd January, and a few days later the enemy garrison at Sollum withdrew to Halfaya, the one position still holding out. Halfaya surrendered on 17th January.



For three hundred years after European States first established themselves in the islands of the South China Sea and the Western Pacific Japan remained a medieval feudal State, refusing all communication with the outside



world. Not until the latter half of the nineteenth century did she open her gates to foreign trade and then proceed to remodel her whole State organization on modern European capitalist lines. But always the older ruling



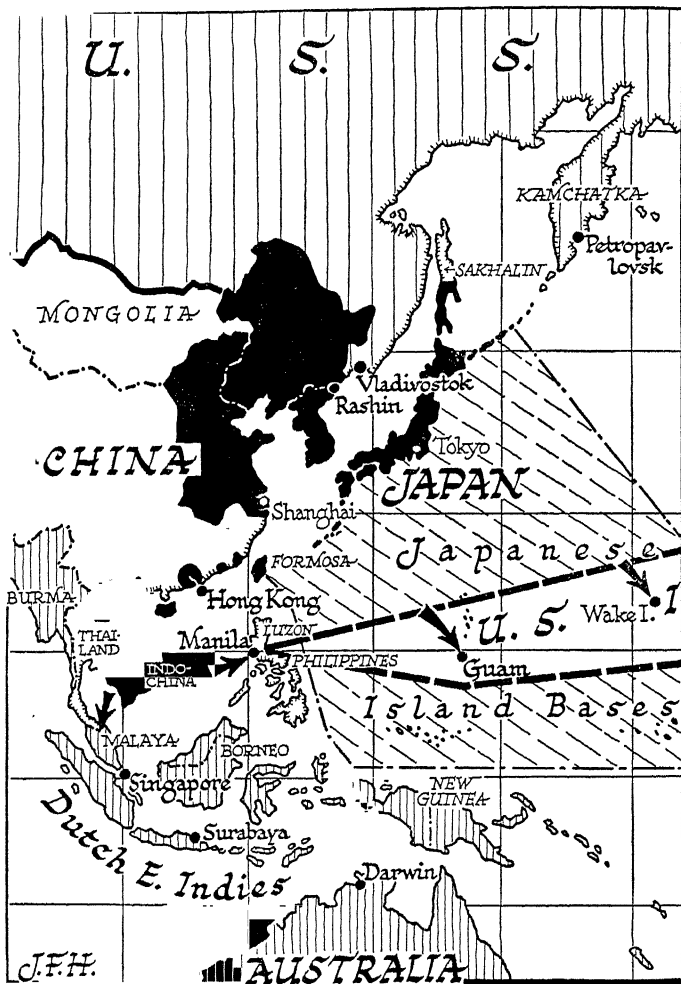
families maintained a firm hold on the armed forces of the country, naval and military ; and always the older virtues of unquestioning devotion to Emperor and State and belief in the divinely ordained dominance of the Japanese race were made the basis of all education.

The Expansion of Japan—

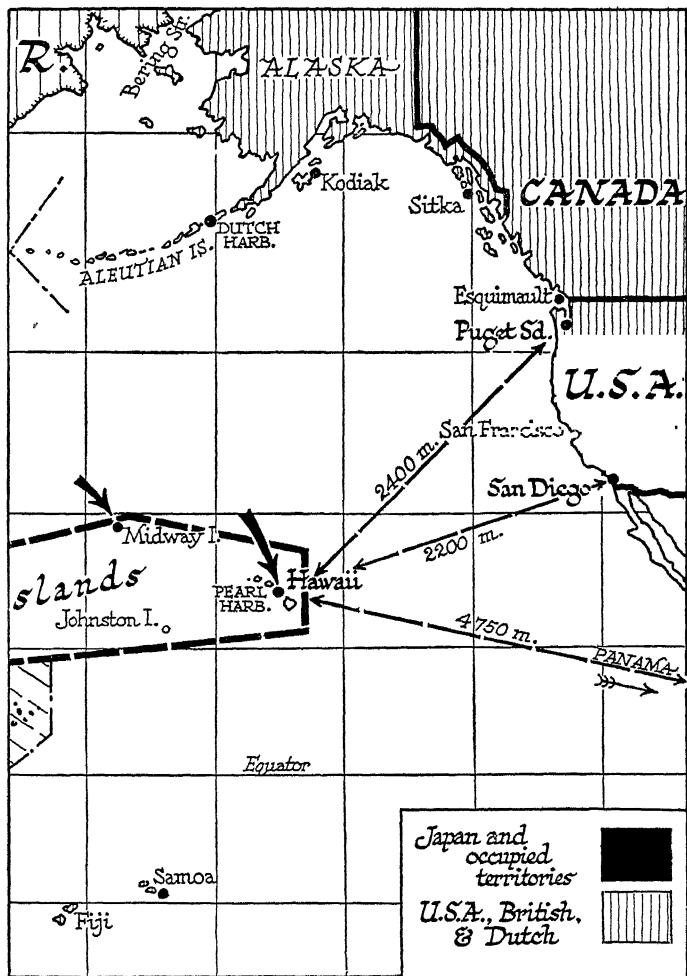
Japanese expansion began (see Map 233) with her war on China in 1894-95, when she took Formosa, and proclaimed a protectorate over Korea (annexed outright in 1910). The war with Russia (1905) resulted in the acquisition of Port Arthur and the southern half of Sakhalin Island.

After the first World War she secured the mandate for various groups of islands, previously Germany's, in the western Pacific. In 1931 (see Map 234) she struck at the north-eastern (Manchurian) provinces of China, and established the puppet State of Manchukuo. Her rapid building of railways throughout this area seemed a threat aimed at the Far Eastern territories of the U.S.S.R.

In 1937 she began the present war with China (see Map 235), overrunning the northern and east-central coastal provinces, and pushing up the Yangtse to beyond Hankow. The collapse of France in 1940 enabled her to occupy Indo-China, thus extending her mainland bases some hundreds of miles to the south.



Japan Strikes—



(See next page.)

The Pacific : Japan Strikes—

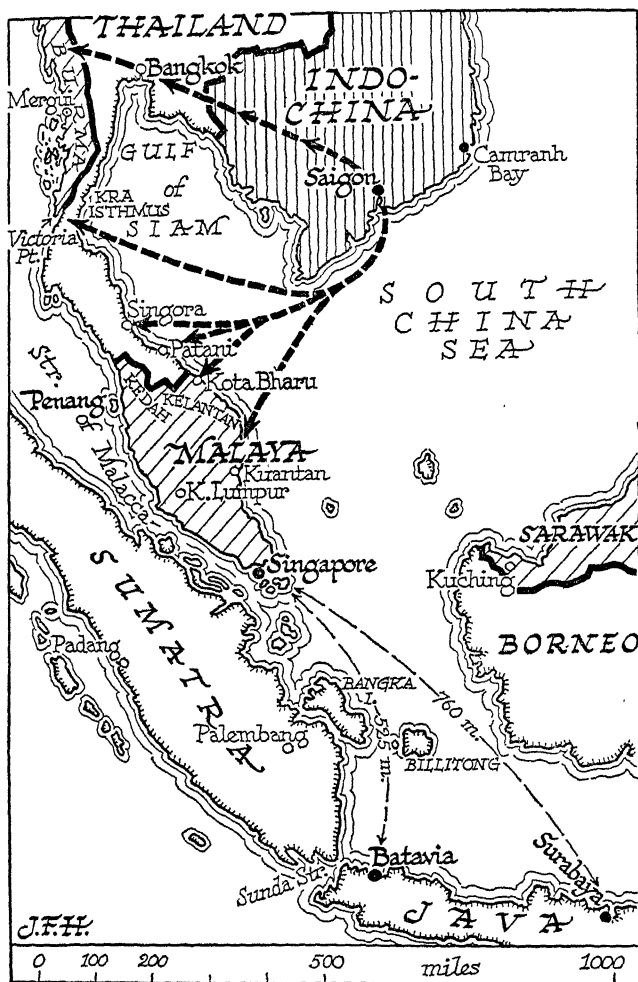
JAPANESE aggression in Indo-China led to an embargo by the United States on the supply of certain goods and materials to Japan. After long-drawn-out discussions a special Japanese mission was sent to Washington in November.

Early on Sunday morning, 7th December, while the Japanese envoys were still in negotiation with the State Department, Japanese forces, without preliminary warning, delivered heavy air attacks on the main American naval and air base in the Pacific—Pearl Harbour, in the Hawaiian Islands—sinking and damaging warships, and doing heavy damage to aerodromes and military and naval establishments. Hawaii is the easternmost of a chain of American island bases, widely separated, stretching across the Pacific to the Philippines, and extending through the area of the Japanese mandated islands. This initial attack was promptly followed up by air and sea attacks on Midway, Wake, and Guam Islands, all of which were soon in Japanese possession. The direct line of communication from Hawaii across the mid-Pacific was thus broken at the outset ; and the longer southern route via Samoa and Fiji to Australia, alone remained open for American supplies to the Far Eastern war zones.

On the opening day of the war Japanese planes also raided Manila, Hong Kong, northern Malaya, and the International Settlement at Shanghai, where Japanese

marines took control and a British gunboat was sunk. Clearly, Japan was intent from the very outset on exploiting to the utmost her advantage of position ; an advantage which had been materially increased by the treachery of her opening attack.

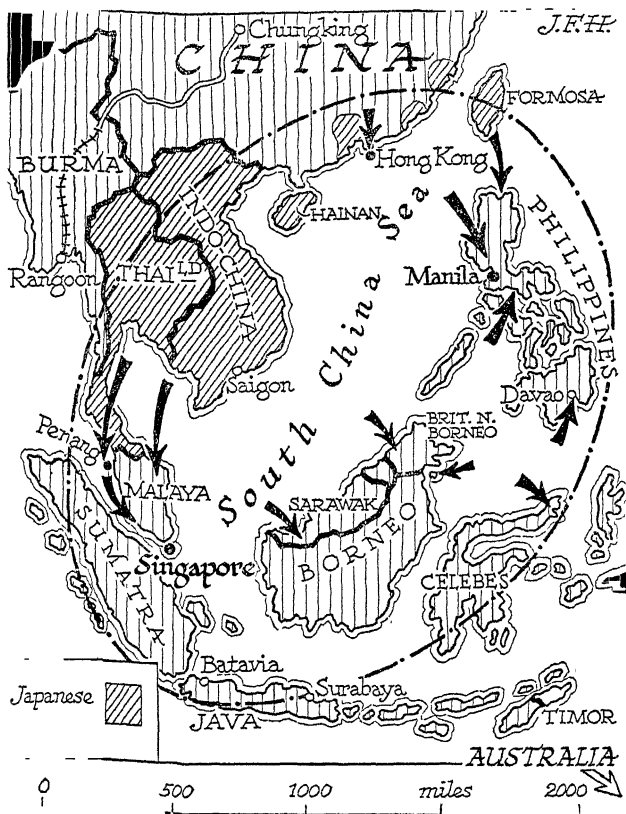
On 8th December the British Government declared war on Japan, a special meeting of Parliament unanimously supporting Mr. Churchill's declaration. The same morning the U.S. Congress, after a statement by Mr. Roosevelt in person, also declared war. The Dutch Government in London and the Canadian Government immediately followed suit. On 9th December came declarations of war by Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and China declared war on Germany and Italy. On 11th December, after Italy and Germany had each declared war on the U.S., Congress declared war against both, and voted in favour of sending U.S. forces to any part of the world.

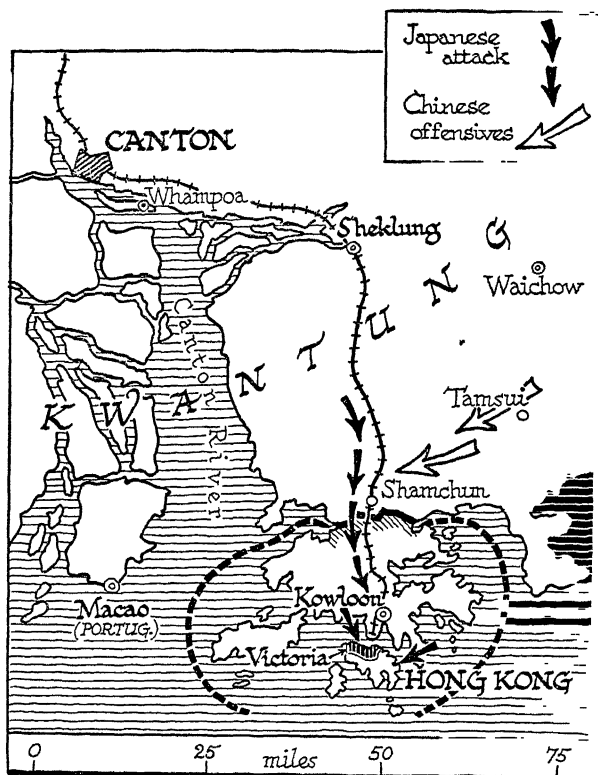


The Attack on Thailand and Malaya—

FROM her newly acquired bases in southern Indo-China Japan could strike quickly at Thailand and at British Malaya. The former country quickly gave up all resistance and formally permitted the passage of Japanese troops. This brought the Japanese directly to the frontiers of Burma and Malaya. Landings of Japanese troops were immediately made at Singora and Patani, on the coast immediately to the north of the Malayan frontier, and at Kota Bharu, in north-east Malaya, where the airfield was at once attacked.

On 10th December the British battleship *Prince of Wales* and the battle-cruiser *Repulse*, steaming north from Singapore along the Malayan coast, were attacked and sunk by Japanese aeroplanes, Admiral Sir Tom Phillips being among those lost.

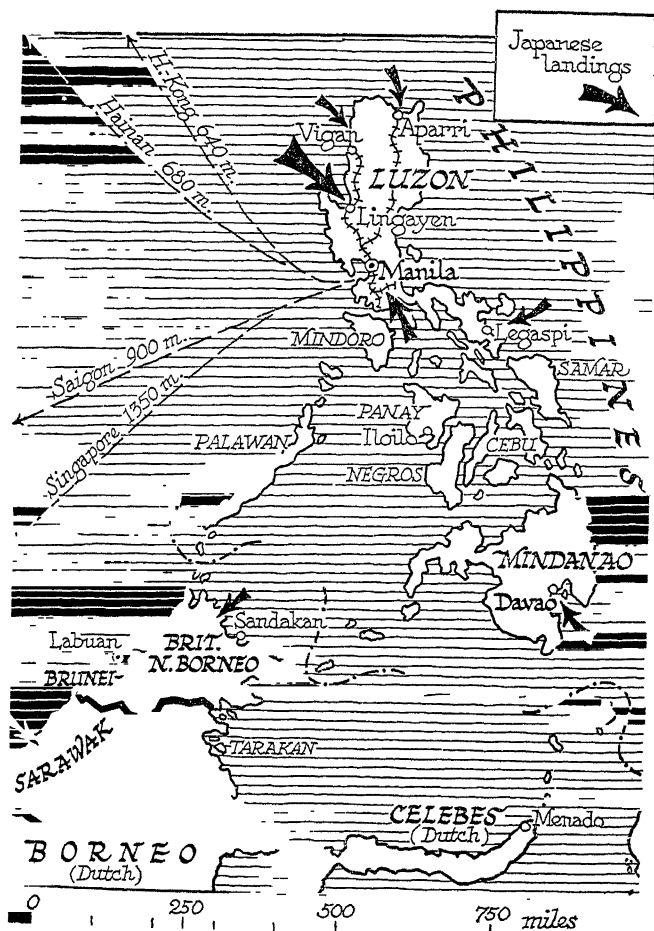




The Attack on Hong Kong—

THE assault on Hong Kong came from the Chinese mainland, where the Japanese were in possession of Canton and the whole area of the Canton River. Japanese forces advanced into the Kowloon peninsula and compelled the defending forces to withdraw to Hong Kong island. For nearly two weeks, despite very heavy casualties, the garrison held out. After the first week the enemy succeeded in making landings on the island, and the defenders were subjected to continuous bombardment and to the total loss of their water supply. On Christmas Day the island surrendered.

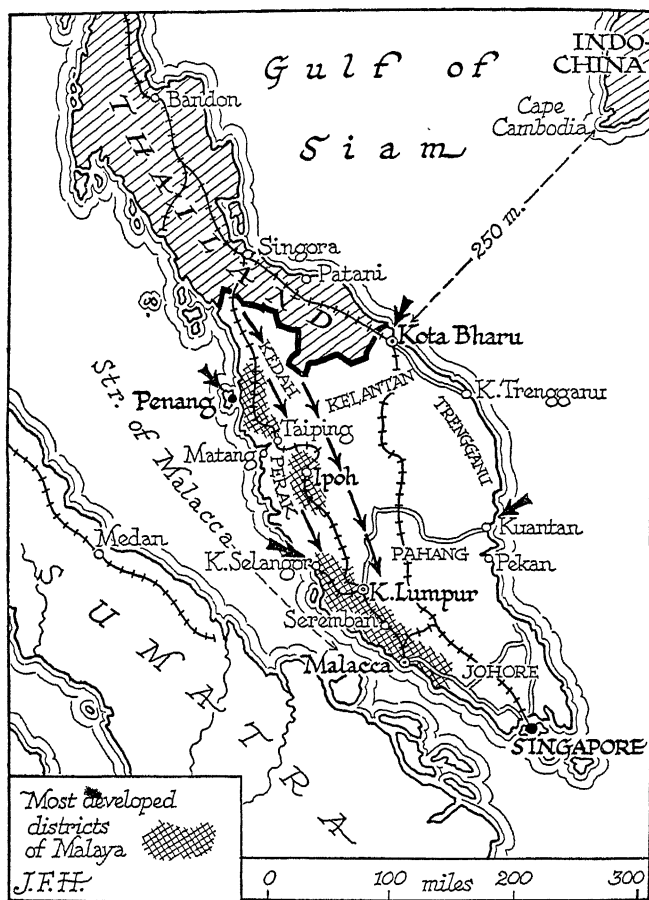
Chinese forces made a gallant but unavailing attempt to relieve the garrison by attacking the Kowloon railway, the main Japanese line of supply.



The Attack on the Philippines—

THE first Japanese landing in the Philippines was made, three days after the outbreak of hostilities, on the northern coast of Luzon. During this operation the U.S. air force sank a Japanese battleship, the *Haruna*. Landings were also made on the southern and south-eastern coasts of the island, and at Davao, in the island of Mindanao. On 22nd December a large-scale attack began with the disembarkation of some 80,000 troops near Lingayen, 100 miles north of Manila. During the whole of this time Manila, despite a declaration that it was an open town, was repeatedly bombed. Philippine troops were fighting alongside the U.S. forces, but both were now heavily outnumbered, and were compelled to draw in their lines nearer to the capital. On 2nd January Manila fell, and the American naval base at Cavite, in Manila Bay, was evacuated. American and Philippine forces under General MacArthur still held out in the peninsula on the north-western side of Manila Bay.

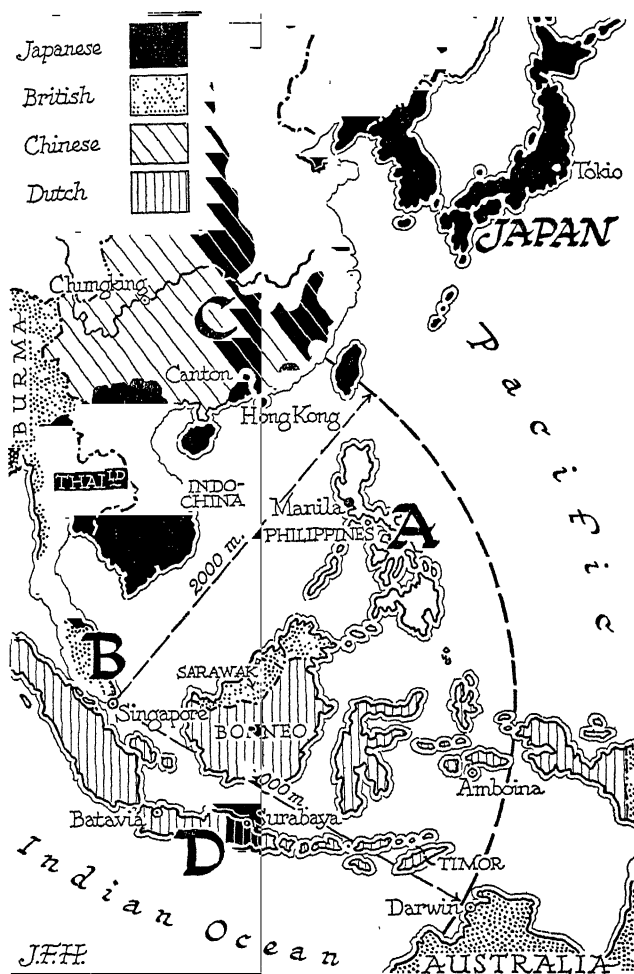
Meanwhile coastal towns and oil centres in Sarawak had been seized by the Japanese ; and they had also landed in British North Borneo, from which the British forces had previously been withdrawn.



The Invasion of Malaya—

AFTER the seizure of Kota Bharu on the first day of the invasion, and a landing at Kuantan, nearly 200 miles farther south on the east coast, the main Japanese drive into Malaya was made down the western—and economically more important—side of the peninsula.

Within a few days the British forces had withdrawn from Kedah, and on 19th December Penang was evacuated. The Japanese pushed on southward, and by the end of December were south of Ipoh, centre of the important tin industry. They made fresh landings farther down the coast at Kuala Selangor, and the defending troops north of that place had to make a further retirement. Kuala Lumpur, after Singapore the most important town of Malaya, was evacuated 11th January. The British defending forces were withdrawing towards Singapore Island.



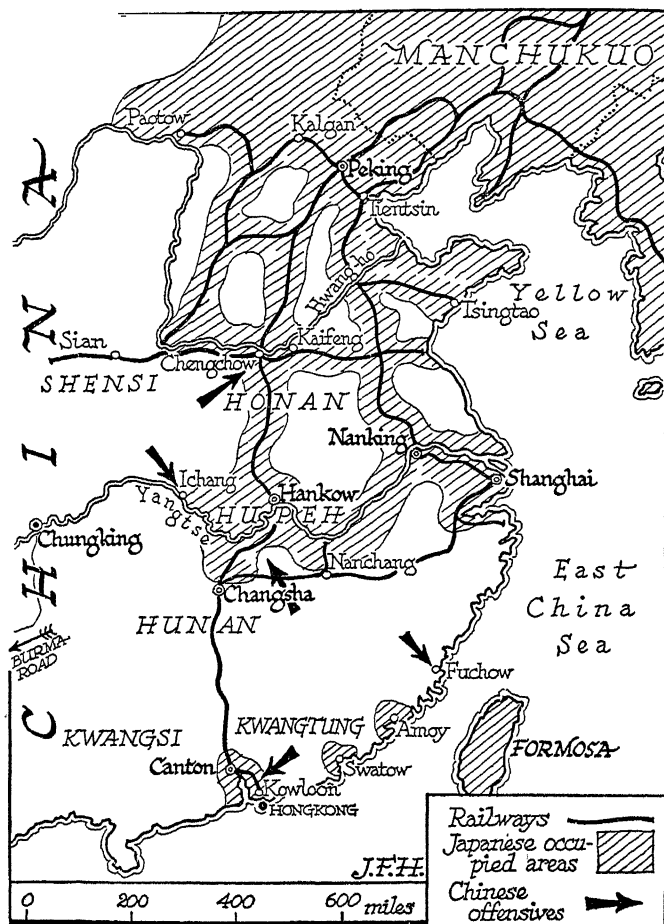
The A B C D

Front—

THE Japanese are being resisted in the Western Pacific by American, British, Chinese, and Dutch armed forces. After the loss of the British ships *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* naval operations were mainly carried out by Dutch submarines ; and Dutch and American as well as Australian bombers were active in harrying Japanese transport and supply ships. Chinese troops attempted the relief of Hong Kong ; and the presence of fully equipped Chinese forces in Burma, acting under General Wavell's command, was announced 2nd January.

With the loss of Hong Kong and Manila the importance of Singapore as a key naval base was intensified. Between it and Australia are the Dutch bases of Batavia and Surabaya (on the island of Java) and Amboina, farther east.

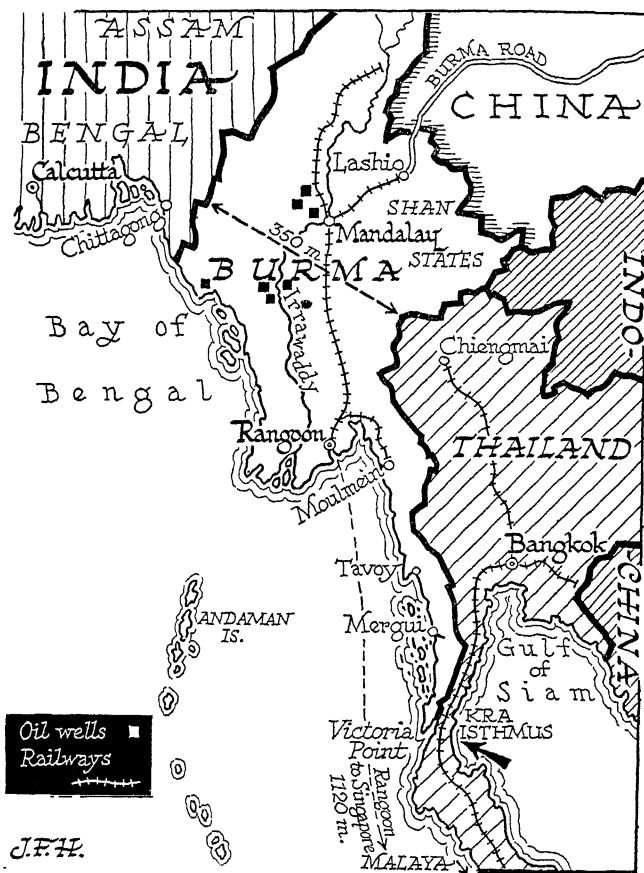
On 18th December Portuguese Timor (the nearest territory to Australia) was occupied by Dutch and British Imperial forces as a necessary measure of security.



China's Fifth Year of War—

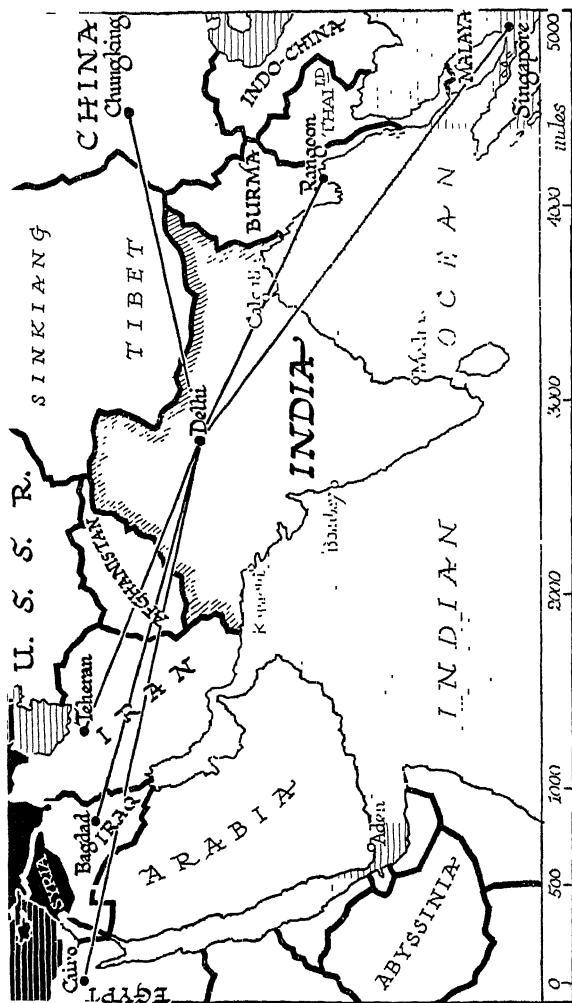
JAPAN's hold on the north-eastern and eastern provinces of China is confined to the railway zones. In the vast areas lying between these, Chinese guerilla forces operate and communicate with each other—and with Chinese H.Q.—through the Japanese lines. The puppet government at Nanking, which telegraphed its support of the Anti-Comintern Pact to Berlin in November, is in effective control of very limited areas.

In September the Chinese reoccupied the port of Fuchow, taken by the Japanese six months before. September and October saw attacks and counter-attacks in various areas : in the region of Chengchow, an important railway junction on the Hwang-ho ; at Ichang, the Yangtse town which marks Japan's westernmost advance ; and at Changsha, south of Hankow. In December again the Japanese delivered attacks in force in this latter region, but were repulsed, the Chinese counter-attacking east of the town. As already noted, during the siege of Hong Kong the Chinese attacked the Japanese lines between Canton and Kowloon.



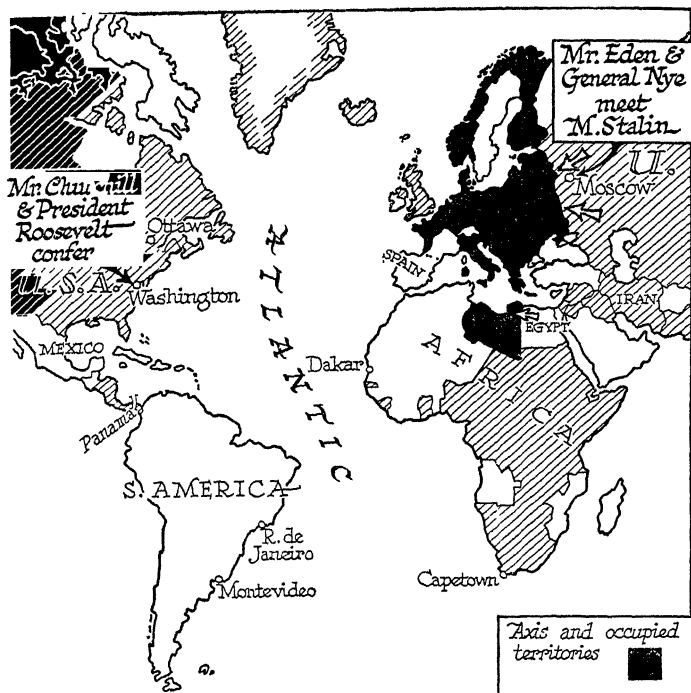
Burma in the War Zone—

THE seizure of Indo-China had already brought the Japanese to the Burmese frontier. Their occupation of Thailand exposed all southern Burma to attack, and enabled them to strike at the railway which feeds the Burma Road to China, and at the port of Rangoon. Rangoon was heavily raided on 23rd and 25th December, but the enemy lost many 'planes. Various localities in the south of the country were bombed, and the garrison at Victoria Point, on the Kra Isthmus, was withdrawn. On 19th January the Japanese entered Tavoy.



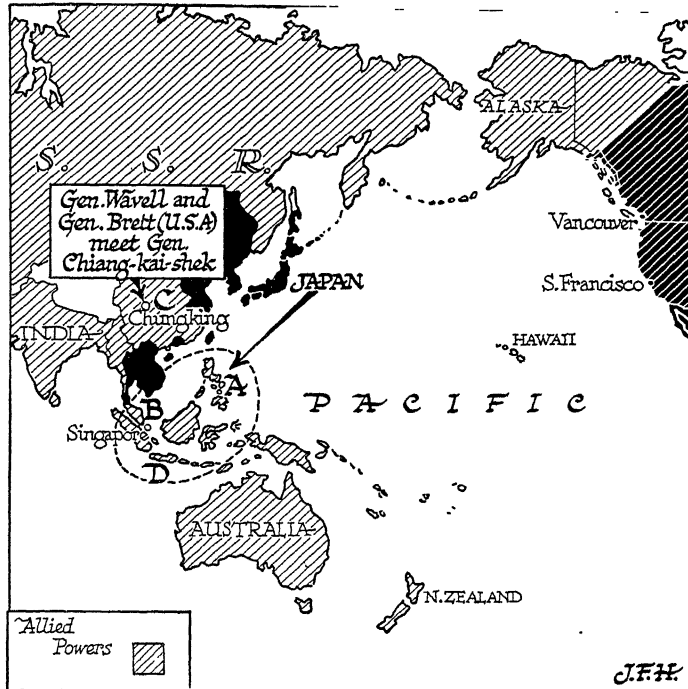
War Clouds over India—

THE spread of the war to Burma (*cf.* previous map) brought India within the zone of actual hostilities. In December General Wavell met Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in Chungking. He had, at various earlier dates, paid visits to Cairo, Bagdad, Teheran, Singapore, and Rangoon—outlying keypoints in a strategical situation by which India was, or might be, closely affected. The theatre of war now extended from west to east of the whole continent of Asia.



WITH the entry of the U.S. into the war the problems of strategy became world-wide, and integration of direction and control was clearly necessary. On 23rd December it was announced that Mr. Churchill, with Lord Beaverbrook and the British army and navy chiefs, was in Washington to discuss with Mr. Roosevelt full Allied co-ordination. (Four months earlier, in August, the two statesmen had met on a battleship "somewhere

Alliance—

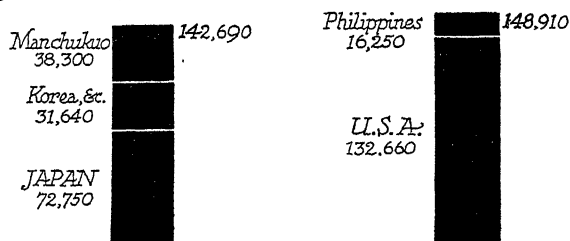


in the Atlantic," and had drafted the Eight Point Declaration of Peace Aims.)

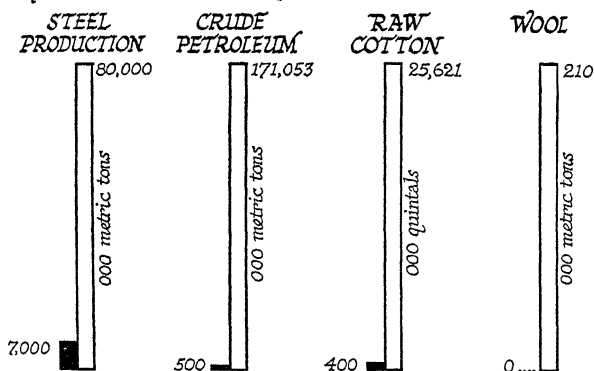
During December also the British Foreign Minister, Mr. Eden, was in Moscow discussing joint war plans with M. Stalin and M. Molotov. At this same time General Wavell was meeting Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in the capital city of Free China.

JAPAN and U.S.A.


Comparative Populations (000s) —



Comparative Production — JAPAN  U.S.A. 



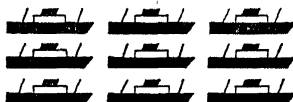
Ships owned, June 1939

(each  = 1 million gross tons)

JAPAN



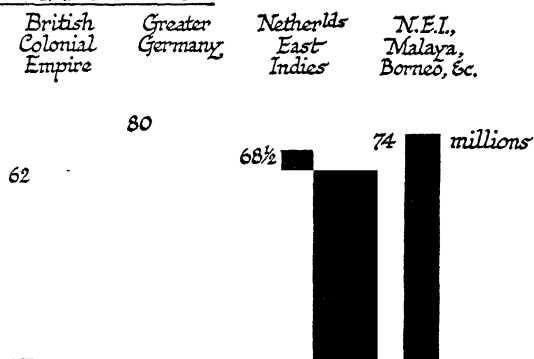
U.S.A.



Japan and the U.S.: Comparative Figures—

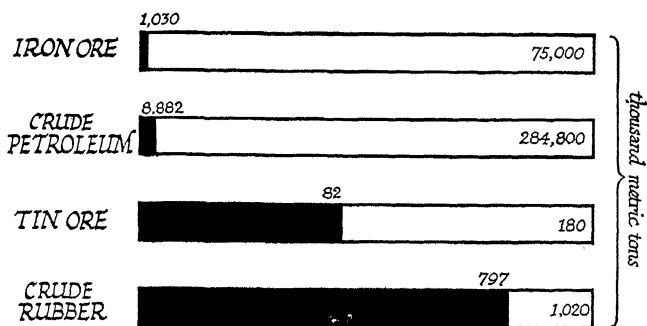
THE two new belligerents are here compared. It will be seen that, if Japan's previous conquests are included, the man-power available to her is nearly as big as that of the United States. But the war potential which has accrued to the Allies completely dwarfs the Axis gains from Japan, whose steel production (the figures given are the estimated capacity of the industry in each country) is insignificant compared with that of the United States. Moreover, Japan is deficient in raw materials, including iron ore on which her steel production depends. On the other hand, she is known to have accumulated large stocks of important war materials in recent months, and there are iron ore deposits in Manchuria and Korea which are being exploited. But it should not be forgotten that when she attacked the United States, Japan was still at war with China, which is now one of the United Nations fighting the Axis Powers.

The ships shown on the diagram are merchant ships.

COMPARATIVE POPULATIONS

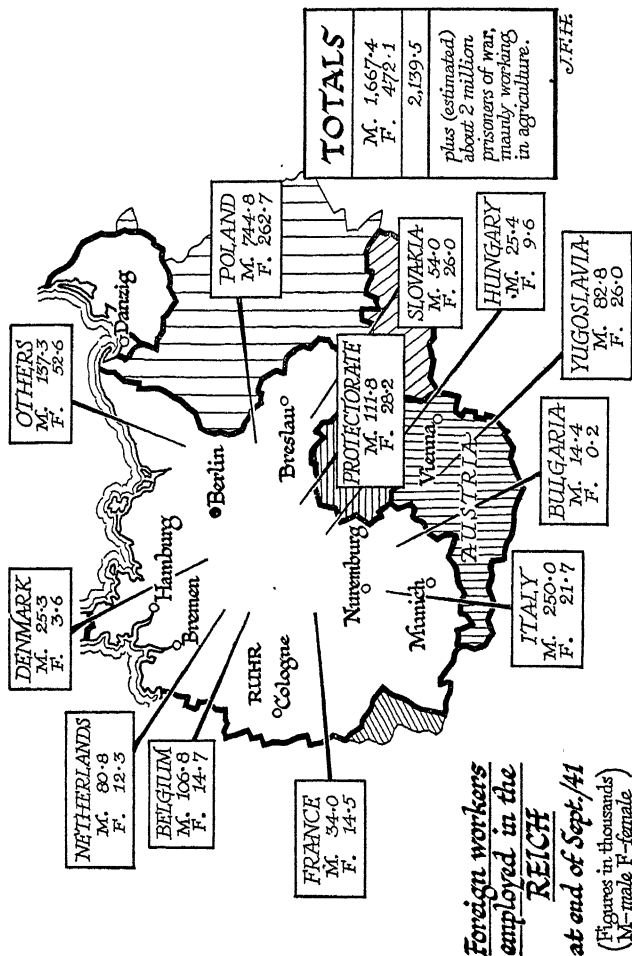
Production in Malaya,
N.E.I., Borneo, &c.

WORLD production



The Wealth of the Indies—

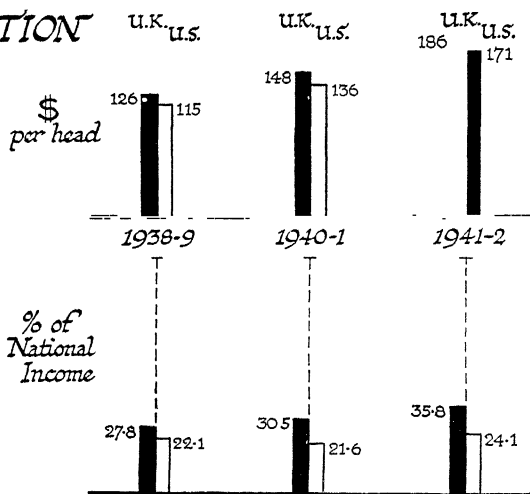
THIS diagram shows what wealth the Japanese might secure if their campaign in the Netherlands Indies and Malaya were successful. The population of this part of the world is bigger than that of the whole of the British colonial empire and nearly as big as that of Greater Germany. In addition, the area has a wealth of raw materials. There is not enough iron ore to meet Japan's needs, but there would be enough oil (if the wells and refineries had not been destroyed). Moreover, the tin, and especially the rubber, produced there, are a serious loss to the Allies.



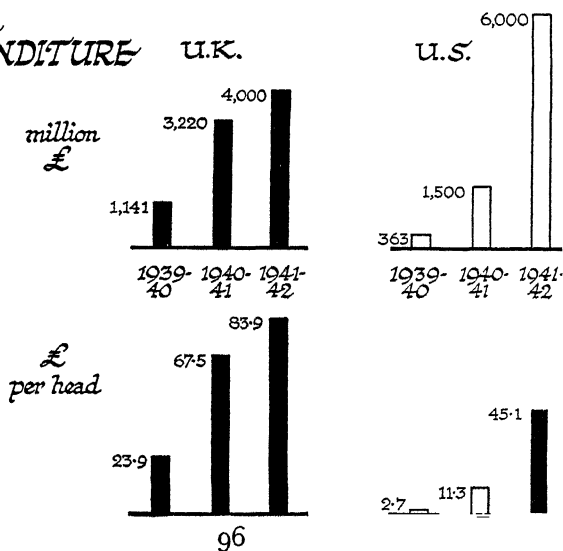
Hitler's War Machine—

HITLER has partly solved Germany's man-power problems by forced labour from the occupied countries, and this map shows the number of foreign workers in the Reich at the end of last September. As might have been expected, it is Poland which has had to pay the highest tribute of its citizens.

TAXATION



WAR EXPENDITURE

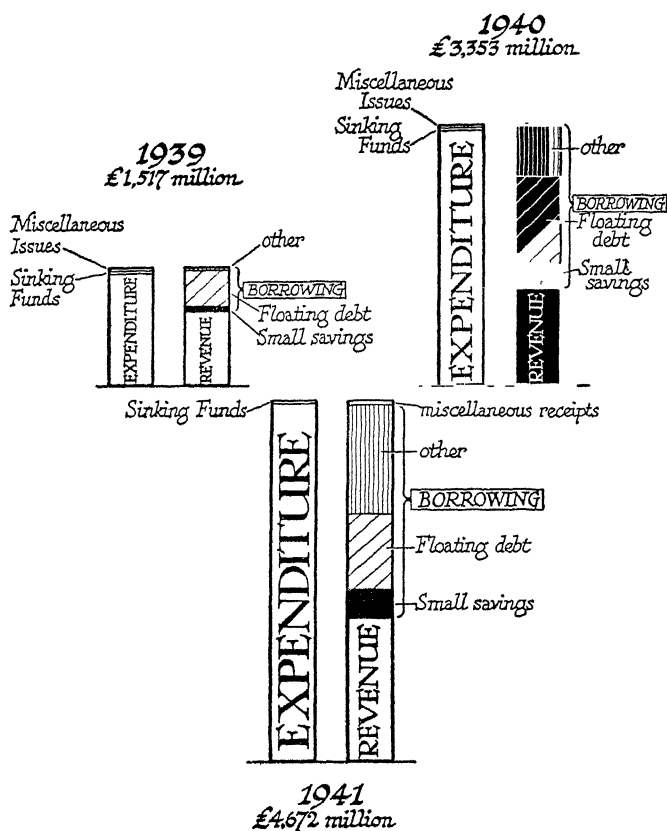


U.S. and British Taxation and War Expenditure—

TAXATION in the United Kingdom and the United States is shown on two bases—per head of the population, and as a proportion of the National Income. The per head basis is the simpler but less satisfactory of the two methods. If one man is richer than another he can find a given sum in taxation with much less sacrifice. The truer comparison is to show what proportion of all the available resources of the country are turned over to the Government. By this test it will be seen that British taxes, in 1941-42, were almost half as heavy again as American. (In both countries, figures include taxes levied by State and local authorities as well as by the national treasury.)

The war expenditure figures also show British expenditure, on a per head basis, as higher than American.

These figures, however, precede America's entry into the war. In 1942-43 American taxation will take about $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. of national income, and war expenditure will amount to about £106 per head.



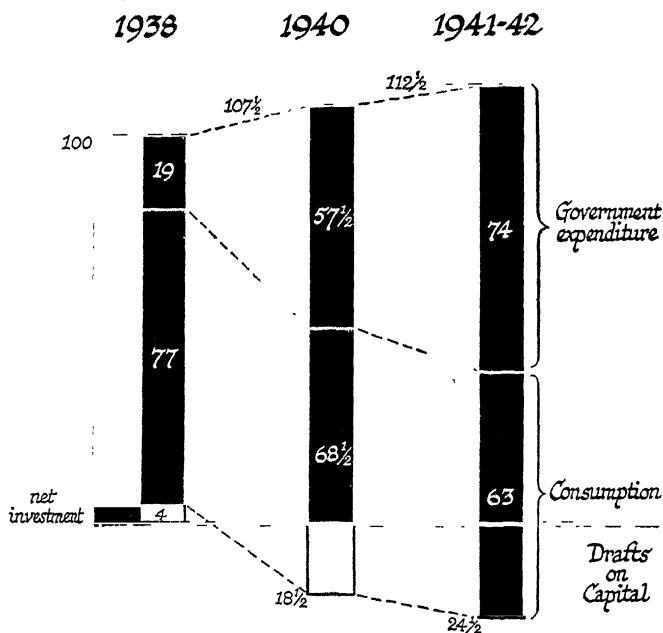
Financing British Expenditure—

THE previous diagram showed how high British taxation has risen since 1938. This one shows how necessary this increase has been, because, though tax revenue has almost doubled since 1939, Government expenditure has trebled. The transfer of industry and man-power from civilian to war work, which is represented by the increase in expenditure, means that people must reduce their consumption of civilian goods or else competition for them will send prices up and up. The best way to make people reduce their consumption is by taking their money away from them in taxation before they try to spend it, and they can also be encouraged to save instead of spending. The diagram shows what measure of success the Government has had in financing its expenditure by non-inflationary means. Roughly speaking, these are represented by revenue and small savings ; the floating debt and other borrowing are mostly raised from banks, companies, etc., and do not, therefore, represent abstention from consumption. It is clear from the diagram that though small savings, like revenue, have risen considerably since 1939, too large a part of the Government's expenditure has been financed by inflationary borrowing.

Black columns = National Income
White " show use made of same

*All figures are related to the
 base, National Income of 1938 = 100*

Price changes allowed for.

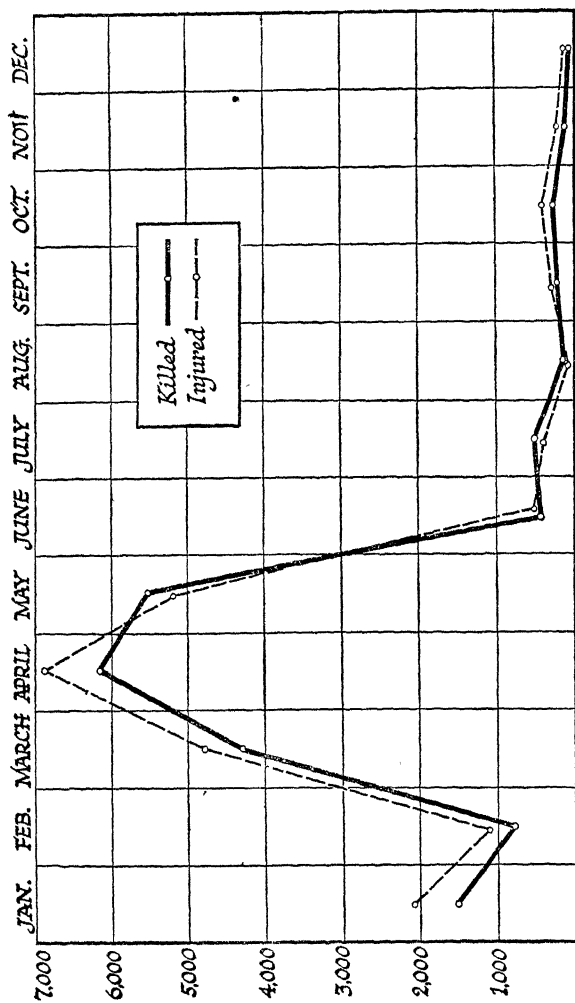


Allocation of the National Income—

THIS chart shows estimates of the way in which the material resources needed for the war have been found. Britain's national income in 1938 (that is, the volume of goods and services available to the community) is taken as being equal to 100. In that year Government expenditure amounted to 19 per cent. of the national income, and the consumption of the public to 77 per cent. The remaining 4 per cent. was saved and invested.

In 1940 Government expenditure had risen to $57\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (of the 1938 income) and consumption had fallen to $68\frac{1}{2}$. These two figures amount to 126, and as the national income had risen to only $107\frac{1}{2}$, there was disinvestment, or drafts on capital, of $18\frac{1}{2}$. (Drafts on capital can be either on foreign capital—*e.g.* the sale of investments in the United States, or on domestic capital—*e.g.* the melting down of park railings.) In the fiscal year 1941-42, Government expenditure and consumption together amounted to 137, national income was $112\frac{1}{2}$, so that drafts on capital were $24\frac{1}{2}$.

The great rise in Government expenditure has thus been provided from three sources : (1) the rise in the national income (*i.e.* total output) from 100 to $112\frac{1}{2}$; (2) the conversion of net investment of 4 into net disinvestment of $24\frac{1}{2}$; (3) the restriction of consumption from 77 to 63.



Civilian Casualties in Air Raids, 1941—

THIS diagram includes, with some amendments, the figures for the first six months of the year already given in Diagram 209 (Vol. IV.), completing them for the whole year. The sharp fall in the figures for June was, as will be seen, still further reduced after July. In December the casualties were 34 killed and 55 injured, as compared with nearly 4,000 killed and over 5,000 injured in December 1940. In July and August the number of injured (as previously in May) was less than the total of killed.

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